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Columbia Chronicle (09/24/2007)

Columbia College Chicago

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THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

The Official News Source of Columbia College Chicago September 24, 2007 Volume 43 Number 4

Protest of the living dead



In a 'Die In' organized by the American Friends Service committee, more than 50 protestors covered themselves in white sheets at Federal Plaza, 50 W. Adams St., in protest of the Iraq war. During the protest, the names of Iraqi civilians killed in the fighting were read over a loudspeaker.

Andrew A. Nelles THE CHRONICLE



'I LOVE MEN'

Feminist art portrays men in different media

Loving a man and being a feminist is actually a reality. An increasing number of feminists are dismissing the stereotype that feminists are anti-masculine, man-hating individuals. The exhibition, "Girl on Guy: the object of my desire," hopes to dispel those negative opinions and show feminist art in a more tender, positive light.

"Girl on Guy" will utilize many forms of media such as MP3s, a movement piece, sketchbook journals and many sensual paintings and photos.

» SEE PG. 4

Fall enrollment figures released

College sees increase in minority student body

by Robert Bykowski
Assistant Campus News Editor

MINORITY ENROLLMENT increases and graduate student decreases were the most noticeable changes to come from the recently

released fall 2007 Columbia enrollment statistics.

The numbers, released to The Chronicle on Sept. 28, show a total of 12,021 students, 572 more than the 11,449 last fall. The administration credits housing availability and successful recruitment for the increase.

"There's no doubt that the residence halls we've developed over the past three to four years have given us more flexibility and

made us a more attractive option for out-of-state students," said Mark Lloyd, associate vice president and chief marketing officer. "We are more and more a residential college. We've got 2,600 beds on this campus. We're attracting a more traditional 18-year-old student population."

» SEE ENROLLMENT PG. 14



CUTTING-EDGE CUPCAKES

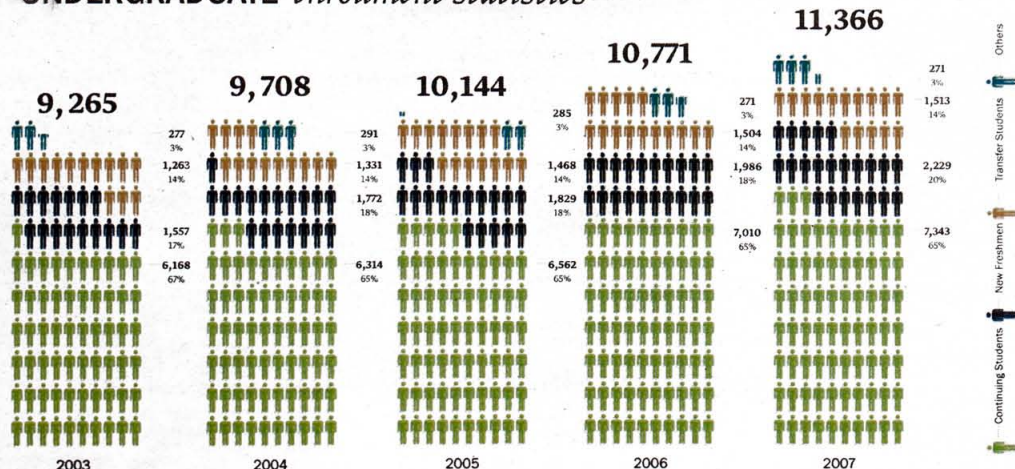
Student's sassy snacks satisfy sweet tooth

The do-it-yourself phenomenon has become a staple for young adults to express themselves and still support the arts community. Although cozies for a cell phone and handmade necklaces may be cute or beautiful, baking has, for the most part, been left out of the DIY spotlight.

As punk rockers and alternative personalities alike settle down and domesticate, more and more are keeping a firm grasp on their styles and self-expression. One Columbia student does her part to express herself with the help of her oven and a little bit of frosting.

» SEE PG. 22

UNDERGRADUATE enrollment statistics



Emilia Klimiuk THE CHRONICLE

Monkey love sets example for all



by Amanda Maurer
Editor-in-Chief

Love has conquered all once more. In the past few years, news sources have released the rare-but-true reports of random animal relationships. This time the love story involves a monkey and a pigeon.

Apparently a Chinese animal sanctuary rescued a three-month-old macaque, a monkey, after it was abandoned by its mother, according to several news sources on Sept. 13.

The sanctuary took the little guy in and nursed him back to health; however, sources report that he didn't seem like himself until he made friends with—what else—a pigeon.

Now, sources say they're rarely separated. Bizarre, eh?

But it's not the first or last cutesy animal story.

Back in 2005, a mother deer gave birth to two fawns on a safari park in England. When the mother rejected one of the babies, the curator's two dogs adopted it.

A few months later, the fawn was reunited with its mother.

And if that wasn't enough to get you going, here's one more.

In March 2004, news broke that a pig, tiger and two dogs in Thailand were a part of a zoo's "Happy Family" exhibit. Yes, an exhibit. The tiger was five months old at the time, and they had all lived with one another since they were little. Needless to say, I wonder how long that lasted.

Now, I'm all for cutesy animal stories. I really am. It fascinates me that two entirely different creatures would comfort each other. I suppose it's not as strange that a dog should want to care for a deer, but a macaque that finds a friend in a pigeon? It seems like such an unlikely pairing for several reasons.

Maybe in its moment of need, the rejected creature is so desperate for nurturing and affection that it will turn to anything.



Courtesy UPPA/PHOTOSHOT

(Granted, the monkey only perked up after he made friends with the pigeon. I guess that says a lot about the sanctuary's staff.)

But maybe there's something more to it.

While it did make my day when I first saw the photo of the monkey hugging his pigeon friend, I couldn't help but think about how our society interacts.

And apparently other people feel the same. Along with the cute picture ran a dozen-plus comments on how this coupling was a "lesson for the world" and a lesson humans should learn about "tolerance, unconditional love and respect for someone or something that [is] very different than us."

Perhaps unknowingly, these two little guys (and the others) have set us an example. Despite all odds (including whoever let a pigeon into the animal sanctuary) the macaque and pigeon showed us that kindness can transcend all—it has no limit.

At the risk of being called crazy, is it so bad to hope that our society can learn something from these odd friendships? I'm sure you can testify in your own life that at some point, some small kind gesture from another has impacted you, regardless of it being in a large or small way.

After all, if a pigeon's OK with a macaque wrapping his little monkey paws around it, maybe we can just be a bit more tolerant and sympathetic to those of our own species.

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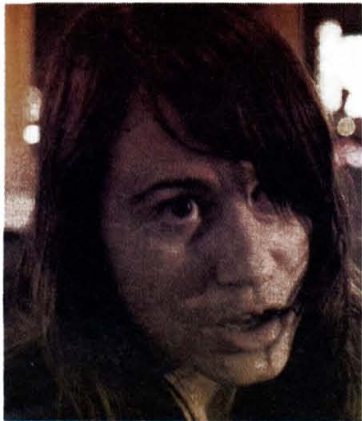
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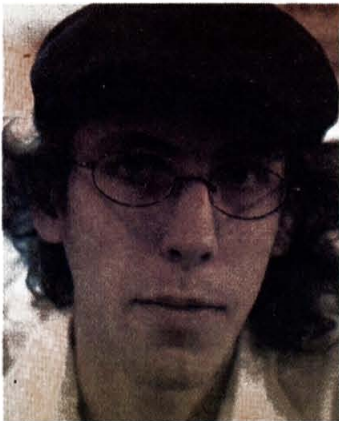
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IN YOUR OPINION: What was the last Columbia art exhibit you visited?



"Manifest last year. I don't have an excuse for not going this year."

Dominique Damico
Senior
Audio Arts and Acoustics



"Summer '06. I haven't been to many recently because I've been busy working on my own stuff."

Nick Reynolds
Freshman
Film and Video



"I haven't heard about any. I went to the Art Institute recently to see the Jeff Wall photography exhibit, though."

Dana Patti
Freshman
Fashion Design

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Campus News

World Can't Wait on 'New McCarthyism'

The Progressive's editor visits Columbia, hopes to end 'Bush Regime'

by Beth Palmer
Campus News Editor

DEPAUL UNIVERSITY professor Norman Finklestein's denial of tenure in June and the use of a taser on Florida college student Andrew Meyer this month fuel the fire of national political resistance group World Can't Wait, which has a large presence on DePaul's campus and a smaller presence at Columbia,

which they hope to increase this year.

On Sept. 20, World Can't Wait Chicago hosted Matthew Rothschild, journalist and editor of The Progressive magazine. Rothschild shared anecdotes from his book *You Have No Rights* to illustrate freedom repression by the government to a half-full Hokin Annex in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave. His speech led to a debate among the audience on non-violent versus violent resistance.

Following Rothschild, Saman-

tha Hamlin, a junior cultural studies major who took this semester off to volunteer with World Can't Wait Chicago, spoke about the need for students—and anyone who wants to “end the Bush regime”—to declare it in their own personal way.

“This campus should turn orange,” she said in reference to the World Can't Wait color choice for visually expressing resistance. “People—if they are against this—should be declaring it to the world.”

Calling this political era “New McCarthyism,” Rothschild gave

examples of cartoonists, columnists, teachers and artists fired for producing or proclaiming “anti-American” sentiments; many of them were surprised with visits from the FBI and Secret Service, he said.

“That’s one of the horrifying things about this climate—people tattle on you to big brother,” he said. “The Secret Service has made it their job to not only protect the president from assassination—but to protect

»FREE SPEECH, PG. 11

Calendar

Artist Lecture: Shawn Decker

Composer and artist Shawn Decker will present a lecture and have a discussion on Sept. 24 from noon to 1 p.m. in room 405 of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave.

For more information, call Tracy Marie Taylor at (312) 344-7597.

Student Government Association meeting

The SGA Senate meeting will be held on Sept. 25 at 5 p.m. in the downstairs HUB in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave. The SGA meets every Tuesday at the same time and location and all students, faculty and staff may attend.

For more information, call the SGA office at (312) 344-6657.

'Poverty in Chicago' film

Columbia graduate student Brian Shodorf screens his film about homelessness and poverty in Chicago on Sept. 27 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Film Row Cinema in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave.

For more information, call Stephanie Shonekan at (312) 344-7167.

'Brown Girls: Dox Thrash's Nudes'

A lecture examining nudes by printmaker Dox Thrash will be held on Sept. 28 in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., room 203.

For more information, call James Iannacone at (312) 344-6864.

'Loaded Landscapes'

The works of 10 contemporary photographers focusing on locations that have experienced conflict are on display at the Museum of Contemporary Photography located in the Alexandroff Campus Center, 600 S. Michigan Ave. The exhibit runs through Oct. 13.

For more information, call the Museum of Contemporary Photography at (312) 663-5554.

Fall fun at Field Day in Grant Park



Columbia students play flag football during Fall Field Day on Sept. 21 in Grant Park. The Student Athletics Association was sponsor.

Rachael Strecher THE CHRONICLE

Columbia in 10 seconds ... or less

Alumnus wins John Lennon Songwriting Award for jazz

JEREMY ZMUDA, who attended Columbia for a year before transferring to Berklee College of Music in 1993, won the world renowned competition for his song “Oh Standby” from his latest release, *End of an Era*. The John Lennon Songwriting Award made him one of 12 grand prize winners who receive \$5,000 worth of recording equipment, a \$500 gift certificate and an iPod, and a chance to be awarded a \$5,000

publishing advance from EMI Music Publishing, according to Jazz News. He is now in the running for the \$20,000 Maxell Song of The Year, the top award from the John Lennon contest.

Renegades baseball establishes team, wins double header

THE COLUMBIA Renegades baseball team had its first two games on Sept. 15 in a double header against Roosevelt University in Bedford Park. The Renegades won both games, 15-8, 7-4. Renegades baseball president Ryan

Knight said the double header acted as both an extended tryout for the new members of the team and an opportunity for old and new members alike to bond. Knight estimates 20 people came to the Renegades tryouts earlier this month, of which 10 were chosen.

Town Hall Forum scheduled to discuss poverty and privilege

ON SEPT. 26, a number of activists and city leaders including Reverend Doris Green, director of community affairs at the

AIDS Foundation of Chicago, and Richard L. Jones, Ph. D. and the president and CEO of Metropolitan Family Services, will contribute as part of a panel to a discussion of poverty and privilege.

The free, public Town Hall Forum, presented by Columbia's Institute of the Study of Women and Gender in the Arts and Media, will address specific issues including justice, health and faith. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. in the Conaway Center of the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave.

The softer side of feminism

A+D Gallery presents 'Girl on Guy,' women's art embracing manhood

by Derek Kucynda
Assistant Campus News Editor

FORGET THE stereotype of angst-ridden feminists who despise men; today there are more feminists embracing manhood.

Columbia's A+D Gallery, located in the 619 S. Wabash Ave. Building, is hosting a new exhibit, titled "Girl on Guy: the object of my desire." The exhibition begins on Sept. 27 and runs until Nov. 3. The exhibit focuses on dispelling the notion that feminists dislike males.

"This exhibit is my heartfelt declaration in the belief that loving men and being a feminist is not a contradiction," said Marci Rae McDade, the curator of "Girl on Guy" and a working artist. "[Girl on Guy] is] about the positive, sensual portrayal of men."

McDade, who graduated from Columbia in 1994 with a degree in film and video, pitched the idea to Jennifer Murray, the director of the A+D Gallery, Sabina Ott, chair of the Art and Design Department, and Elizabeth Burke-Dain, the media relations associate for "Girl on Guy."

"We are very excited about the exhibit and we hope it generates a lot of interest and discussion," Murray said.

Dismissing the perception that feminists are critical towards men through "Girl on Guy" was an opportunity that McDade was thrilled to have.

"I have curated 'Girl on Guy' to offer a constructive platform upon which to seri-

ously consider the importance and merits of this work," McDade said.

The exhibit opens during a time where there is an important feminist movement-going on globally. "Girl on Guy" adds to the modern art movement by "embracing the male subject in a positive way," McDade said.

"It's important today to reconsider the significance of our feminine desires and to value the quality of our relationships with men," McDade said.

McDade hopes to stir lots of conversation about feminist art. But she is aware that students will also come for the "fun, racy artwork."

"The show is designed for a younger crowd," McDade said, adding there will be a living room area in the front of the gallery so guests may read and look at some of the work there.

"Girl on Guy" includes paintings, videos, photography, sculptures, conceptual text, fiber art, a sound installation, a movement performance and a sketchbook of drawings and musings.

Many of the 25 artists were already on-board and McDade had the initial proposal set in stone.

"The timing and opportunity came together," McDade said.

Many of the feminist artists were found by McDade. She did a lot of research, went to gallery exhibits and she contacted the artists to be a part of the line-up. Some of the artists are Chicago-based, such as Stephanie Brooks, Riva Lehrer, Torreyanna Barley and Cynthia Plaster Caster, and they agreed to be a part of the show.



This photo, part of a collection of 16 photos called 'The Air Guitar Series' that Julia Hechtman took in 2003. Hechtman found a group of men to jam to their favorite rock songs and took pictures of them rocking out during the songs.

Courtesy JENNIFER MURRAY

Caster, notorious for her plaster casts of rock star penises, will have three of her sculptures present at the exhibit.

Students around campus are aware of "Girl on Guy" and of the concept of feminism in today's society.

"I think that feminism teaches women to be independent and my views are that women want their rights to be equal like

men," said Dan Polyak, freshman graphic design major. "I'm interested in seeing this exhibit and [seeing what] feminist art and what their portrayal of men is like."

Many of the works depict men in everyday situations such as sleeping, bathing and standing in front of a Volkswagen.

»'GIRL ON GUY' PG. 14

ATTENTION STUDENTS - ALL MAJORS WELCOME!

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- Two students or student teams will each be awarded \$500 stipends.
- Public acknowledgment of the prize winners and honorable mentions.
- A chance to meet with college leaders at a reception at the president's house.
- A card mailing to galleries, art collectors, arts funders, and advocates.
- All entries will also be considered for other campus purposes, such as advertising, websites, banners, posters, calendars, etc., providing another opportunity for exposure.

SUBMISSION DATES: SEPTEMBER 4 - OCTOBER 5
ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS: WEEK OF OCTOBER 15

For competition guidelines, see
colum.edu/holidaycard

Credits (left to right): Jodi Adams; Analee Kasudia; Janelle Olson.

Note: These cards from past years are provided as examples only and are not intended to suggest or restrict the range of acceptable artwork. In fact, we're looking for OUT-OF-THE-BOX and OFF-THE-PAGE ideas.

create... change

Art re-visits New Orleans

Students' photos from Katrina relief now on display

by David Lister
Staff Writer

WHILE MANY students vacationed in Mexico or Florida, a group of 30 volunteers from Columbia—26 students and four staff members—spent spring break 2007 doing Hurricane Katrina relief work.

"Life After Katrina: 18 Months Later: The Photographs" is opening on Sept. 24 at the Conaway Center in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave. The week-long exhibit will feature both photographs and journal entries from some of the group who visited New Orleans in March.

Erin Polley, a senior cultural studies major, is the exhibit's co-curator along with graduate student Kristen Orser. Polley said the show was not planned before the student trip to New Orleans, but many of them were thrilled to find out their pictures and journals would be displayed.

"We wanted to explore how Columbia students have engaged in poverty and privilege," she said.

Polley said journals aid in fully understanding the photos. A picture of a Katrina-ravaged house spray painted with numbers and letters does not mean much until it's understood the numbers represent how many animals and people were found dead inside the home, she said.

Lott Hill, director of the Center for Teaching Excellence at Columbia, said the exhibit reflects the spirit of Critical Encounters: Poverty and Privilege.

"Ultimately this exhibit is very much

in the spirit of Critical Encounters," said Hill, who also serves as co-chair of the Critical Encounters Task Force. "It's an intersection of what we teach and learn at Columbia and what happens in the real world."

The exhibit will show the stories of the students visiting New Orleans' 9th Ward, their participation in various volunteering projects and the stories of residents who are feeling the effects of Katrina a year and a half later.

"A large part of this was just engaging with people in New Orleans," Hill said. "We listened to their stories and provided support."

Hill has been part of three trips to New Orleans since Katrina hit in August 2005. He said there is a disconnection between the people who need help and the New Orleans institutions that are giving help.

"The thing that always runs through my mind is every time we've gone down there, everyone has said they're helping," Hill said. "But the people don't feel like they're getting the help they need."

Hill also said how gratifying the experience of volunteering can be.

"[People in New Orleans] say it's the volunteers, like these Columbia students, that



This photo of Columbia students volunteering in New Orleans during spring break 2007 will appear in the exhibit.

Courtesy KELSEY WILD

are why they are still alive," he said. "To hear someone say you're saving their life really puts it into context."

Brian Venegas, a senior journalism major, said he plans on visiting the exhibit.

"It's a really big story and it affected a bunch of people," he said. "I'm not saying the pictures are going to bring me closer to the problem, but they will help me understand what's going on there."

Sarah Mozal, a senior television major

and one of the students featured in the show, said one of the most gratifying parts of the trip for her was to see people who stayed positive despite being so obviously neglected.

"Just finding friends was what made the trip so special for me," Mozal said. "Learning how people can survive and how people do survive is something I'm glad I got to see."

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DEADLINE EXTENDED! NOVEMBER 16, 2007

The Turner Award in Music Composition has been established by Allen Turner, Chairman of Columbia College's Board of Trustees.

THE SONG

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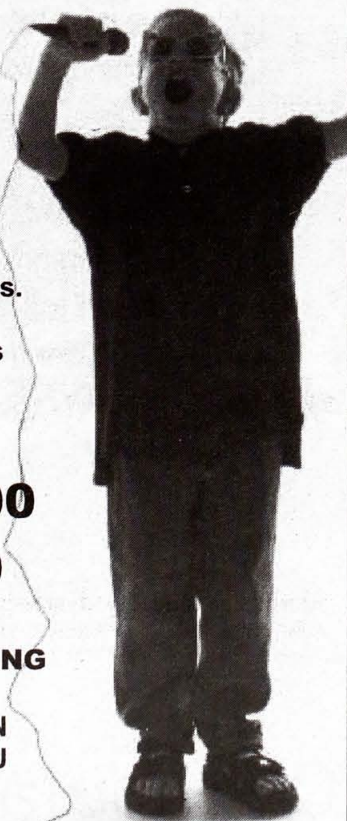
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7:30 PM

Tuesday September 25

Ice Fest Featuring
Soprano Tony Arnold and
Pianist Jacob Greenberg

12:30 PM

Thursday September 27

"Avoiding Hand Injuries"
A Lecture by Katherine Pyrtle

6:00 PM

Friday September 28

Jazz Gallery in the Lobby

12:00 PM

All events are free. For more info: 312/344-6300

Kerouac is back

Biographer visits Columbia, speaks on enduring relevance of the author's works

by Luke Smucker
Assistant A&E Editor

JACK KEROUAC acquired many titles in his lifetime: novelist, poet, athlete, hitchhiker, soldier, criminal and alcoholic. He is best known as one of the most prominent writers of the beat generation, a phrase Kerouac came up with to describe the underground group of struggling young writers and drug addicts that had gathered in New York during the late '50s and early '60s. Kerouac died on Oct. 21, 1969 at the age of 47 from an internal hemorrhage which was the result of his heavy drinking.

Biographer Gerald Nicosia never met Kerouac, but he is well known for the extensive research and interviews that he put into *Memory Babe*, a book that USA Today called "The most relentless and thoroughly researched of the Kerouac biographies."

Nicosia visited Columbia to talk about the relevance of Kerouac in today's society and why it's important to continue studying his works. Kerouac's infamous book, *On the Road*, was re-released in August and now includes parts that had initially been taken out because of their vulgarity and sexuality. Nicosia recently sat down with The Chronicle to talk about Kerouac's distaste for Bob Dylan, his respect for prostitutes and his French heritage.

The Chronicle: Kerouac moved to the United States from Quebec, Canada and didn't learn English until the age of six. How did the transition of cultures affect him?

Gerald Nicosia: He grew up in the French-Canadian ghetto of Lowell, [Mass.] where they were all French-speaking. He had trouble speaking English until he was in his teens. He deeply identified with his French roots because his parents told him

"John Coltrane was his great hero. [In] his writing, you can see the parallels ... He'd write 400-word sentences with no punctuation, just spontaneous riffing that comes out of be-bop."

stories that they were descended from this French baron who came to Britain to fight the British in the 1700s. Somebody in his family did some genealogical research a few years ago, it turned out there was no French baron at all. He was kind of a richer guy, but he was the black sheep of the family. He got in trouble with some woman, [so] the family gave him a boat ticket to the New World and he ended up in Quebec. [In 1966, Kerouac went] back to France to try to [do] research, but of course by that point, he was an alcoholic and he was so drunk they threw him out of the [library] and he never got to look at the records.

Kerouac was very affected by the loss of his older brother Gerard, which he later described in *Visions of Gerard*. How did he cope with the loss of his brother?

The people who knew him when he was young at Columbia University said he



Gerald Nicosia wrote a biography about Jack Kerouac titled 'Memory Babe.'

Courtesy MICKI LEVENTHAL

really didn't talk about Gerard that much. It was really at the end of his life that he would start having dialogues [with Gerard]. [Kerouac] said his brother was in heaven and had all these little white lambs pulling a cart in heaven.

One of the things you find about very traumatic experiences is that they often get submerged for a while and then begin to affect the person at a later date. He had all that trauma and he was so young that [it] was submerged and began to come out later.

In college, Kerouac was a very athletic guy who ran track and played football. How athletic was he later on in life?

When he was in New York he would hike all over from one end of the city to another; he hardly ever rode a subway or a bus. He was very strong most of his life until the very end when alcoholism was taking its toll on him. He loved sports, loved to talk sports. That's one of the reasons he didn't fit in New York, he didn't want to sit around with the partisan review crowd and talk about the developments of the novel. He would much rather sit down and talk about football or baseball.

Kerouac was an influence for all these great song writers, from The Beatles and Jim Morrison to Bob Dylan and Simon and Garfunkel. Did Kerouac listen to any of the musicians he influenced?

[Kerouac] didn't like rock and roll much; he constantly made fun of Bob Dylan. He'd do his own monologues and sometimes he would sing songs into the tape recorder. One of the things I heard he did [was] this long, talking, blues parody of Bob Dylan. He said something like, "If I whined like

this, I could make a million dollars too." You can see he doesn't like Bob Dylan at all. He really didn't appreciate the music because his music was jazz. John Coltrane was his great hero. [In] his writing, you can see the parallels.

He'd write 400-word sentences with no punctuation, just spontaneous riffing that comes out of be-bop.

How did Kerouac perceive other people?

He believed everybody was [an] angel. Everybody he met, he'd see junkies and prostitutes on Times Square and he'd say they were all angels. The right-wing press at the time would say, "This man! Why is he sponsoring criminals? He's praising criminals!" But for Kerouac, they were all angels and he was the chronicler.

lsmucker@chroniclemail.com

Student Financial Services

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Journalism student hopes to rake in laughs with website

by Derek Kucynda
Assistant Campus News Editor

LADIES AND gentleman, this is comedian entrepreneur Tim Bearden, a junior journalism and film major at Columbia. He wears boxers because he enjoys the steady air flow, supports Howard Dean and would vote for him if he ran for president again. His favorite Pop-Tart is strawberry but he usually ends up wearing it after he's done, he said.

All Pop-Tarts aside, Bearden is a new student at Columbia this fall who is looking to break into the business of journalism and comedy. He is the editor-in-chief of Comedy Corner Magazine, an online comedic publication released on the second Friday of every month on comedycorneronline.com/home.html.

Comedy Corner Magazine discusses topics that are affecting today's society, but the writers put a comical spin on their editorials. The website also doubles as a networking site for aspiring comedians to advertise themselves. Comedy Corner Magazine is a part of the production company Small Time Big Shot Productions, which is also run by Bearden. He is also responsible for producing "Brilliant Night of Comedy," an open mic event that takes place bi-weekly at Johnny O'Hagan's Pub, 3374 N. Clark St.

Bearden had assistance with creating Comedy Corner Magazine and the open mic events. Five years ago, Bearden, his friend Danny Shannon, 25, a Bradley University student, actor Tim Hopper, 33, and wife Amanda Hopper, 28, wanted to start up the online magazine but didn't have

the funds.

Last fall, Bearden was sitting at a comedy club and thought of Comedy Corner Magazine and he knew it was something he wanted to. In November, they started the magazine. It took the greater part of eight months to get the website set up and finally in July, Comedy Corner Online and its magazine was launched.

"We are about to do a complete makeover. [We are] redesigning the webpage and making the navigation more user-friendly," Hilliard said. "We want to help aspiring comedians and we want to make people come back to our website."

Unlike The Onion, which writes mock stories, Comedy Corner Magazine writes editorials and puts a humorous spin on them, Bearden said. The types of stories Bearden and his staff write about are topics that are relevant to today's society. Last month, Comedy Corner Magazine covered censorship in the media and the forces behind it.

So far, Comedy Corner Magazine has slowly gained popularity. Since debuting in July, Comedy Corner Online has received more than 300 hits and Bearden hopes it does not stop there.

Next month, Bearden hopes to tackle the topic of "gossip over government." Bearden said sites such as TMZ.com and

PerezHilton.com have gained popularity recently, while interest in governmental issues has been declining.

As for the future, Bearden hopes to put more videos on his website and on YouTube.com. He hopes Comedy Corner Magazine will be in print magazine format in two years and in five years and he hopes his production company, Small Time Big Shot productions will be able to make a feature film. Bearden hopes for make it as an actor or comedian in Hollywood.

The focus for Bearden is getting the next online issue out in time and reaching as many readers as possible. Relying solely on e-mail and word-of-mouth, he hopes that many aspiring comedians will find his website.

Bearden understands the importance of keeping up with the online magazine, informing people about his website and continually practicing his craft. In

2001, he had to scrap the idea of having an online comedy magazine because of a lack of funding, so he focused on doing stand-up comedy at Western Illinois University, located in Macomb, Ill., beginning his freshman year. He continues to do stand-up comedy at different events.

As for journalism, his freshman English teacher suggested that Bearden write for a newspaper. Bearden went to the Macomb Eagle and they gave him a chance.

"My first article was probably the worst written article in the history of journalism and I had to sit with the editor for two hours," Bearden said.

Throughout the years, Bearden stayed involved with journalism, writing for various newspapers such as the Daily Times and the Western Courier, the Western Illinois University's newspaper.

Bearden even had the chance to try out for Last Comic Standing, but didn't make the cut.

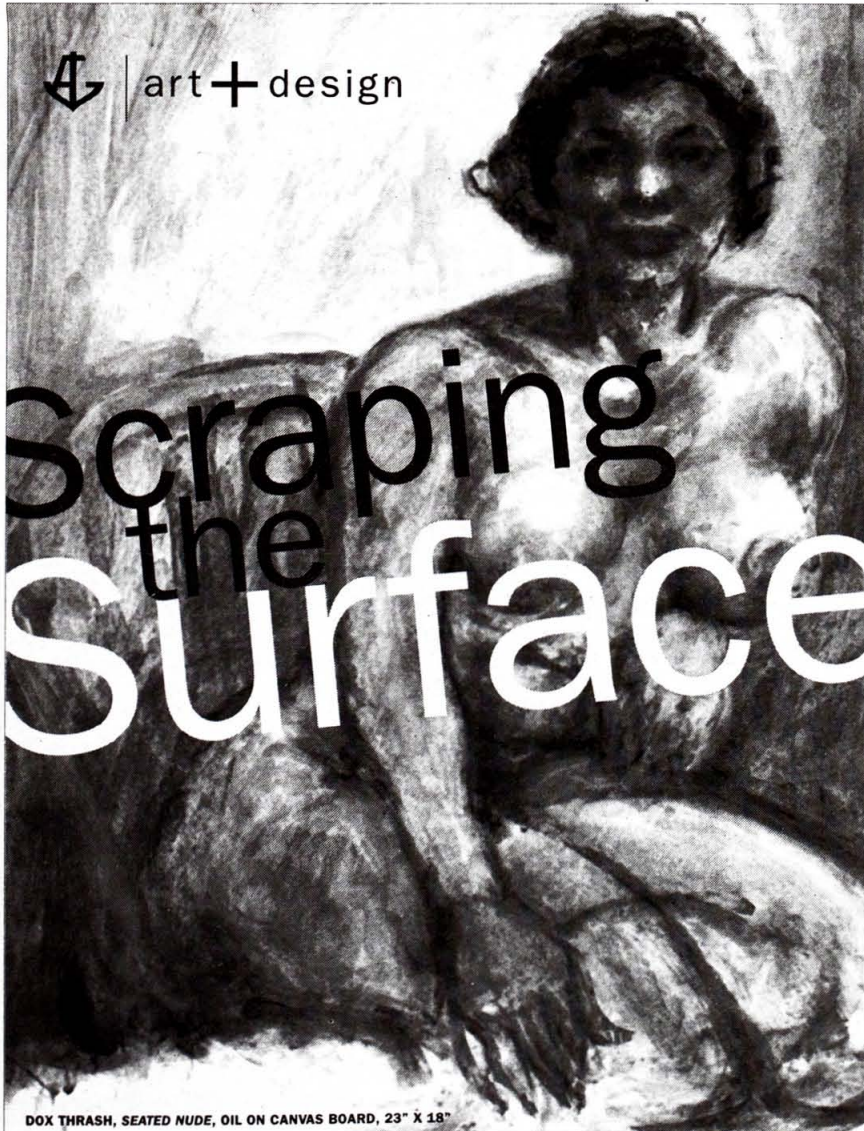
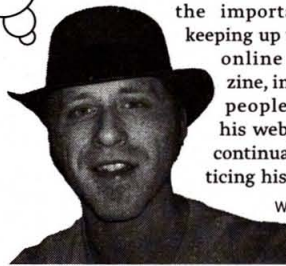
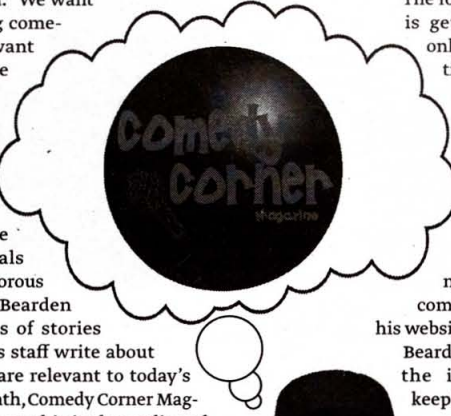
"They were looking for a certain look and a certain style and I wasn't it," Bearden said. "I'm not really anybody's style of comedy; I just like doing it."

"Brilliant Night of Comedy" will have a show Sept. 26 at 8 p.m. Bearden is also working with Three-Legged Race, an improv comedy group who will perform at O'Hagan's on Sept. 29 at 7 p.m. For more information, visit comedycorneronline.com/home.html.

dkucynda@chroniclemail.com

When he's not learning at Columbia or working at Johnny O'Hagan's Pub, Tim Bearden is thinking about Comedy Corner Magazine.

Allyson McGovern THE CHRONICLE



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Three years later, negotiations steadily simmer

Staff union waits for next meeting with administration to discuss terms of first employment contract

by John Lendman
Staff Writer

A BATTLE of negotiations wages between Columbia administration and staff.

For the past three years, The United Staff of Columbia College has persistently beseeched the college's bargaining committee for its first contract of employment, which would secure benefits, salaries and fair treatment. While the administration tries to negotiate with the start-from-scratch union, concerned staff members believe Columbia is being run like a corporation.

"I think there is too much of an emphasis on the image of the college, in my opinion, there is not enough caretaking with the staff members," said Michael Bright, interim President of US of CC. "They want to be in the public eye and be recognized ... but they need to step back a bit and take a look at the staff."

Until recently, only full and part-time faculty members were unionized, leaving approximately 800 coordinators, assistants, secretaries and other staff members unrepresented.

"There are plenty of staff members that are teachers, there are staff members that are also students," said Corey Plazak, staff member in the office of Creative & Printing Services. "And the idea that we are not one community and don't have a common interest in this is a big mistake."

The union was certified by the National

Labor Relations Board in April 2006 after the current administration decided to freeze the staff pension plan, reduce medical benefits and, in the process of restructuring departments, lay off staff members, according to the US of CC organization website.

"It is very important [to establish a union]; there is no staff handbook, there is no framework set if a staff member has a problem with a supervisor, there are no checks and balances or any policy about seniority," Bright said. "We need to get salaries set across the board ... We need fairness across the board."

Columbia has experienced many administrative and representation changes over the past few years to maintain its current speed of growth. While offering as many as 120 growing academic programs and acquiring additional South Loop property to accommodate more than 11,000 students, many of its priorities have shifted, reflecting on the management of staff members such as Joan McGrath, membership committee chair of the US of CC.

"The faculty and staff that built the college—the ones doing long hours with the low pay—are under appreciated," McGrath said. "Maybe that's a necessity when a college is run like a corporation, when a college is growing."

He said the situation does not seem fair.

"We're not a brand, but these days everything's a brand. We have full-time staff working unpaid overtime hours and part-time staff working full-time hours without benefits," he said. "We need to get the people being exploited their dues."

All full and part-time non-management



From left, John Murray, Linda Naslund, Oscar Valdez, Michael Bright and a representative from IEA-NEA have a meeting to debrief each other on issues that might come up during the negotiation.

Chuck Wu THE CHRONICLE

college personnel are eligible for US of CC membership. A list of currently employed eligible staff members and information on how to join can be found at the US of CC website, usofcc.org. According to the site, part-time faculty union members (P-FAC), who also hold a staff position can still be eligible for representation in both unions.

The US of CC, in association with the Illinois Education Association and the National Education Association, offers members a long list of benefits including, but not

limited to, \$1 million in liability insurance protection for job-related civil action, an attorney referral program and leadership training in collective bargaining, grievance processing, retirement and legal rights for dues between \$4.63 and \$13 per paycheck, according to the 2007/2008 IEA-NEA Benefit and Dues documents.

From the administration's perspective,

»US of CC, PG. 14

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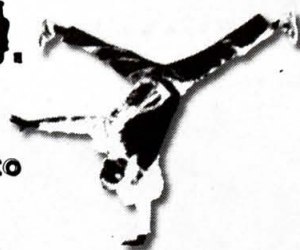
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Letting it all hang out on the Internet

Study finds Facebook users who divulge personal data are risking their security

by John Boudreau

FOUR OUT OF 10 users of the website Facebook unwittingly expose themselves to the risk of identity theft and virus attacks, according to a new study that underscores growing concerns among security experts about online social networking.

Sophos, a Boston-based Internet security company that set up a fictional account on the Palo Alto, Calif.-based site, reported that in a random survey of Facebook users, 41 percent divulged personal information, such as phone numbers, birthdates and e-mail addresses, that could be viewed by strangers.

A Sophos fake user, "Freddi Staur," invited 200 Facebook users to be an online friend. Eighty-seven accepted the invitation, and of those, 82 made personal information available.

Yet Sophos said Facebook's privacy features exceed those of competing social networking sites. And in a statement, a Facebook spokesperson said, "Facebook has long deployed technology

that limits the availability of personal information and welcomes every opportunity to educate users about how to protect their data online."

Sophos said it decided to look at Facebook, which has some 31 million users, because the company requests some personal details before giving someone a new account, said Ron O'Brien, senior security analyst with Sophos. Facebook then allows users to cloak that information, though many don't.

"When you provide information about yourself, you are giving a bad person the opportunity to exploit your identity."

—Ron O'Brien, senior security analyst with Sophos

"The only way to avoid that is to go to the security setting on your profile and set it so it can only be seen by a limited number of people," said O'Brien.

Eighty-four percent of respondents to the Sophos user listed complete birth dates; 78 percent divulged their address or location; 72 percent listed at least one e-mail address; 87 percent provided details about their education or workplace. Twenty-three percent gave their phone number, while 26 percent pro-

vided an instant message name.

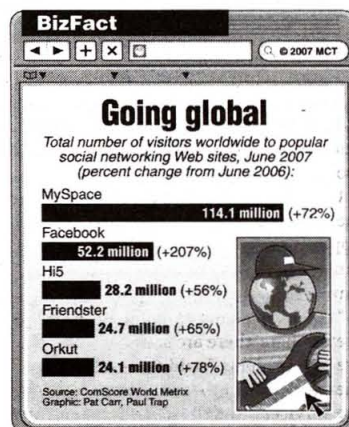
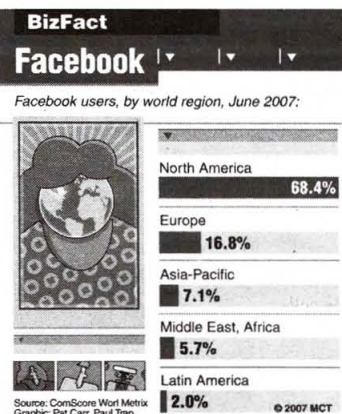
Such personal information can be used for targeted scams. For instance, online scammers can send an e-mail birthday card embedded with a link to a website that can unleash a malicious virus, O'Brien explained.

When you provide information about yourself, you are giving a bad person the opportunity to exploit your identity," O'Brien said.

Facebook users are not the only Internet social-networkers to face dangers in this new era of instant information-swapping. In January, News Corp. and its MySpace social-networking site were sued by four families who said their underage daughters were sexually abused by adults they met on the site.

Furthermore, security experts have begun sounding alarms about a new generation of thieves trolling the Internet, from social-networking pages to sites devoted to rental units and real estate, looking for personal information they can use in a scam.

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Many SGA amendments remain unaddressed

Senate ratifies some constitutional amendments, others still linger

by Robert Bykowski

Assistant Campus News Editor

FOR THE second week straight, the Student Government Association was unable to get through all of the proposed amendments to its constitution it needs to review during its Sept. 18 senate meeting.

The process of reviewing constitutional amendments proposed by the association's executive board started during its Sept. 11 meeting, and because of rules that require all amendments to be voted on at two consecutive meetings, the SGA is looking at an additional two weeks to finish with the proposed amendments.

SGA at-large senator George Lebessis Jr. wasn't surprised the SGA didn't get through all of the remaining amendments.

"We're going to call stuff to question, we're going to motion stuff and we're going to ask for points of clarification. I didn't expect us to get done," said Lebessis, a marketing communications major. "If no one had class, we probably would've stayed and finished it. Everything seemed to be going pretty well."

Annie Slezickey, SGA vice president, also didn't expect to finish, but hoped to get started on the constitutional amendments sooner than they did.

An immediate point of contention came during the appointment of SGA committee chairs and vice chairs when SGA president Brian Matos appointed freshman photog-



SGA vice president Annie Slezickey and SGA president Brian Matos address the senate at the SGA meeting on Sept. 18 in the Hub, 1104 S. Wabash Ave.

Tim Hunt THE CHRONICLE

raphy major Jessica Valerio as vice chair of the Communications Committee.

Former SGA vice president and current senator Andrew Breen contested the appointment, citing a lack of experience on the senate.

"There are other people here who are seniors, sophomores, juniors who have served their time on this senate that are being overlooked," Breen said.

A passage in the constitution that requires potential candidates running for a seat on the senate to have "completed, at the time of nomination, the equivalent of one full-time semester's work..." was also cited by Breen as a reason Valerio should

not be appointed as vice chair.

It was unclear as to whether the passage in the constitution applied to appointed positions, and Valerio was ultimately appointed vice chair.

Matos liked the idea of having a freshman vice chair.

"We like to have fresh people in [the SGA]. You can make a case that they're inexperienced, and some people said that," Matos said. "They bring in a new perspective."

Valerio said she wasn't expecting the appointment to be contested, and while she understood the position Breen and other senators were taking, she felt it was important for freshman to be represented.

The contention wasn't the only part of

the committee chair appointment segment of the meeting that caused delays. Many senators declined their appointment, wanted to be appointed to a different committee or wanted to be vice chair instead of chair.

Because of the flip-flopping, the deadline for committee chair and vice chair applications was extended until Sept. 21 for any remaining open positions.

When the meeting's agenda eventually reached the constitutional amendments, the pace picked up.

Amendments voted on during the Sept. 11 meeting were re-voted on at a brisk pace, making them official. New amendments previously not discussed or voted on by the SGA took about the same time to go through as the previous meeting's amendments, leaving Matos to theorize how the pace could be sped up for the Sept. 25 meeting.

"With the remaining pages, I think we're going to take a look at this in the executive board and decide whether or not we want to retract our recommendations," Matos said. "This is getting to the point where this is going to start interfering with what committees are doing. We don't want that to happen and we can't afford to."

Matos said the SGA wasn't at that point yet, but that they were "not going to bog down the SGA with a bunch of changes to the constitution, some of which are a matter of clarifying a few things here or there."

rbykowski@chroniclemail.com

Get ready for election 2008 with Project Vote Smart

Richard Kimball, president and founder of Project Vote Smart (PVS), a non-partisan, not-for-profit, online searchable database containing a wealth of information on elected officials and political candidates, will speak about the history and mission of PVS and explain how citizens can Vote Smart in the next election with the online Voters' Self-Defense System.

This event is co-sponsored by the Critical Encounters Program, the Civic Engagement & Responsibility Committee, and the Illinois League of Conservation Voters [www.lcvillinois.org].

Project Vote Smart has been lauded for its unbiased and detailed information about candidates' positions on causes and issues. PVS has been called "heaven for political junkies" (USA Today) and recommended for its "reliable, meat and potatoes political information" (New York Times). The American Political Science Association has honored PVS as "The Best" source for accurate political information on the internet.

Diverse political figures including Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Michael Dukakis, Barry Goldwater, Geraldine Ferraro and John McCain helped found PVS. Explore the organization's resources at www.vote-smart.org.

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» FREE SPEECH

Continued from PG. 3

Some audience members inspired by author's anecdotes

their First Amendment rights.

Rothschild told the story of a grade school teacher's termination following a complaint about the teacher telling student she would honk if she drove by a sign that said "Honk for peace."

The school's principal fired her on the grounds that "you can't use the word 'peace' in this school." She sued and lost, Rothschild said; the court upheld that teachers have no place of political expression in the classroom.

But even teachers don't have it as hard as Muslim and Arab-Americans, he said.

Rothschild found the title for his book from a story he reported about law enforcement abuse: The prisoner asked, "What about my rights?" and the enforcement official said, "You have no rights."

Rothschild said he believes in the Gandhi method: Be the change you want to see in the world.

"Change comes from below," he said. "We are the people we've been waiting for," he said, quoting a poem.

Hamlin also stressed the necessity for action versus waiting.

"People can't expect some savior to sweep in" she said in reference to the 2008 Election. "In this situation, much more is needed [than going to the polls]."

Rothschild mentioned specific areas that require change.

"We need to repeal aspects of the Patriot Act," he said. "I also think we need to



Matthew Rothschild, author of 'You Have No Rights,' speaks to Columbia students and community members in the Hokin Annex in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave. on Sept. 20.

Andrew A. Nelles THE CHRONICLE

impeach Bush and Cheney ... and we need to end the U.S. empire, we cannot be an empire and a democracy."

He stressed that Bush is not the sole culprit—the U.S. global domination has been building since at least the early 1900s, he said. The habits need to be broken, otherwise people and history books will largely forget about Iraq.

But history also shows hope, he said.

"I'm not depressed; there have been worse times in this country," he said, citing examples of suffrage and civil rights.

Although Columbia students made up a

majority of the demographic in attendance, a Chicago high school student, a freshman from DePaul, volunteers from World Can't Wait and several senior citizens and other Chicagoans also listened and participated.

Richard Ledford, who has volunteered for World Can't Wait for the past few months, has a long history with grassroots resistance since the 1960s and gave advice for being involved.

"You can use art, you can use poetry—each of us needs to find a way to put a piece into the mix," he said.

Sergey Turzhanskey, sophomore film and

video major, served as emcee of the event. He said he felt inspired by Rothschild's call to action.

Turzhanskey said the debate that followed was mostly about people's personal philosophical beliefs: nonviolent versus violent resistance; types of actions to take; types of issues to address.

"People have different reactions," he said. "[But] sometimes people get an ego and reiterate the same thing over and over."

bpalmer@chroniclemail.com

Tired of getting dirty fingers?



Counseling office booked

Columbia is in the process of hiring a sixth therapist for the Office of Counseling Services

by Brian P. Roach
Staff Writer

WITH THE relaxing summer weather dispersing and coursework demanding Columbia students' time, positive morale can be difficult to sustain, but the college offers counseling services as a solution.

The Office of Counseling Services, located in suite 112 in the Residence Center, 731 S. Plymouth Court, has five therapists on staff and is in process of hiring a sixth.

"The counseling office has been booked," said Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs.

Kelly said a sixth therapist is needed due to very high patient capacity. The new therapist, according to Kelly, will be hired as soon as the hiring process allows.

Kelly wants more students to be conscious of the services available to them.

"Life in college can be very stressful and it is normal for students to feel stress and seek support," Kelly said. "We always want to be reaching out to students."

The Office of Counseling Services offers individual, couples and group sessions with on-campus certified therapists. Sessions are available for currently enrolled students.

Counseling areas include addiction, sadness, low self-esteem and difficulty adapting to college life.

Columbia tuition provides students with 10 free meetings per academic year. If a stu-

dent requires additional sessions, they will be referred to another counseling source outside of the college.

Officials in the Office of Counseling Services prefer prescheduled appointments but walk-ins are welcome.

"We're very conscious of the quality of care that students receive within the 10 sessions," said Jackie Sowinski, who has a masters degree in clinical psychology and is the director of Counseling Services.

Sowinski added in comparison with other local colleges, Columbia's counseling services are more student-oriented.

DePaul University offers 20 individual sessions at the price of \$5 per session. According to the Student Affairs webpage, DePaul has neither psychiatrists on staff nor any counseling services via phone. Loyola offers six sessions with the price of tuition.

Although the Office of Counseling Services requires a sixth therapist, it would like all Columbia students to be aware of the services, Kelly said. Some students are informed that Columbia has Counseling Services available to them, but others have no knowledge concerning the services provided.

"I knew that [Columbia has Counseling Services] but I don't know enough about it. I don't know where it is," said Barbara Baaki, a junior journalism major. "I would [use the services] if I needed to."

The Office of Counseling Services is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



The Office of Counseling Services offers 10 free sessions per academic year to every student; The fee is part of tuition.

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SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Critical Encounters' Roots and Routes: Weekly personal narratives of Poverty and Privilege

'Growing with father's illness'

By Ames Hawkins

Faculty, English Department

"I NEVER realized, not until now, how privileged I am," my Dad announces as he walks out of his room, unlit cigarette waving between his lips, on his way to the back porch to light up.

I am stunned, rendered speechless. This is the man who has, in my presence, over the years, insisted that people need interior decorating to live a healthy life; that our \$500,000 lives in Grosse Pointe, Mich. made us "middle-class." He has said everybody should understand allusions to folks such as Ava Gardner and Andres Serrano. Taxes are important, he would say, but not actually his responsibility, standing in line really doesn't apply to him and "doing" something yourself means paying for it to be done.

In the late 1980s, when I would come home from college, armed with Marxist theory and socialist democratic rhetoric, I would challenge these statements, beliefs and assumptions. I would tell him what a racist he was, what a privileged white man he was, that he didn't understand women's rights at all.

I would often shout: "No way, Dad! Technically, we are upper-middle class. We live in a white suburb, in a big house, in a border-patrolled community. You make your living selling people wallpaper and upholstery! No way are we middle-class."

Unfettered, unabashed he would turn and state, with all duly imbued WASP privilege imaginable, some string of beliefs to counter my attack:

"I was raised on a farm in upstate New York. Many folks have far more money than we do. People need nice environments in which to live."

Now, this conflict appears as an absurd, ridiculous memory on the fringes of our shared past. Presently, my father lives in my house because he has what the medical community now refers to as "active AIDS." He moved in on World AIDS Day 2006 and he and I, at the time, wondered whether he would live until Christmas. More than any argument I could present, any ironically academically privileged critique I could deliver, AIDS has been a vehicle for

critical encounters:

POVERTY ± privilege

my father to grapple with his own wealth and bounty.

He knows all too well that he is one of the lucky ones: a person with AIDS who has family support, a place to live and die, to feel warm and safe and secure in the inevitable. Yet underneath this luck, his body is in the process of complete deterioration.

In the four-plus months that he has lived with us, I have realized that I am just as annoyed and angered by my father as I have always been. He continues to say absolutely preposterous things—regardless of whether they are conservative or liberal—that bug the absolute crap out of me. I continue to listen, support and challenge him in every idea.

But every time we verbally spar—focusing on the differences between honesty and lying—we're moving toward a negotiated state of understanding. What we're doing is finding spaces and places of connection, of recognition, not of he and I as loving father and caring daughter (that's too d--- smarmy for us) but of he as a father who loves, and I as a daughter who cares, so very, very differently than any Hallmark card might describe.

While I have always been aware that my father would die, it never occurred to me, not ever, that he would contract HIV and move into my house. It never ever dawned on me that he would depend on me for nourishment and shelter; that he would prepare for death, or even life, under my roof. I was beyond those sorts of corporal responsibilities.

I was—am—after all, privileged!

I never imagined that AIDS would bring to him, and to me, a kind of wealth heretofore unseen—focus on the present, life in the moment, honesty in the self. I never understood that I am now, by virtue of this relationship, connected to at least half a billion other people around the world, the other "survived bys" in this age of AIDS. He never realized he has always had so much more than anyone else, but now that he has less, he has more than ever.

Understanding the privilege of health and the medical power of wealth, is one thing. Recognizing lack as a way to yet another kind of privilege stands as one of the most valuable life lessons of all.

The aim of Critical Encounters is to encourage you to engage with difficult questions about poverty and privilege. Each week, Critical Encounters will present a personal narrative from a student, faculty, staff, or administrator of Columbia College Chicago. I welcome your reactions to each of these narratives. Write to me about what you think, how these narratives made you think about your own journey, whether you agree or disagree with the views that emerge from these narratives. Hopefully, you will feel inspired to write your own narratives, which you can send to me for inclusion in this column or on our website. Guidelines are on our website, colum.edu/criticalencounters

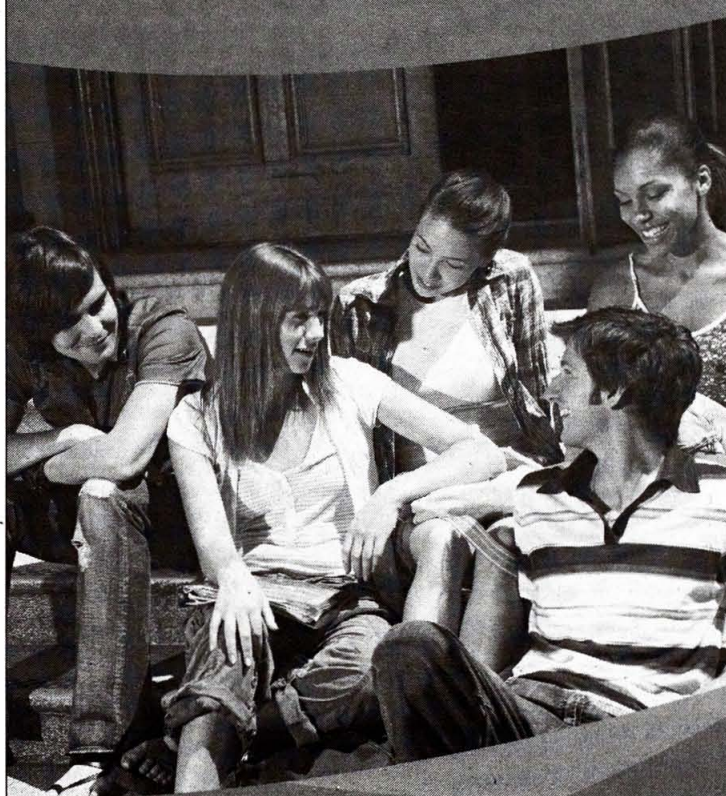
—Stephanie Shonekan (criticalencounters@colum.edu)



Essay author Ames Hawkins writes about her father's journey to open-mindedness.

Rachael Strecher THE CHRONICLE

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» **ENROLLMENT**

Continued from Front Page

Fall graduate enrollment sees declines

The numbers also show improvement in minority enrollment, with black incoming freshman enrollment seeing a significant increase, Lloyd said.

"Our Admissions Department clearly achieved significant success, particularly in some areas of minority enrollment, where our increase in number of [new freshman] African American students went up by 21 percent [from fall 2006]," Lloyd said.

Junior photography major and Black Student Union president Zubare Zuberi said increases in minority numbers are positive no matter what group it comes from.

"More diversity at Columbia is a good thing," he said.

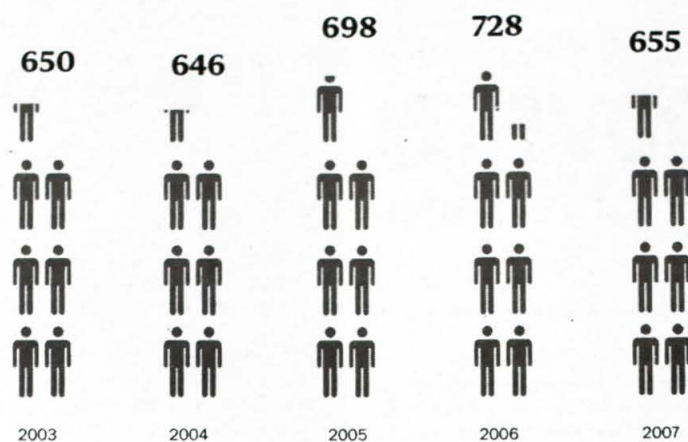
Although most undergraduate minority enrollment numbers saw an increase in bodies, the percentage comprised of minority students remained at 27 percent, the same as last year.

"The number of minority students continues to increase, but overall at a pace that's roughly equivalent to the growth of the college population as a whole, so the proportions remain static," Lloyd said.

One category that did not remain static from a year ago is the graduate student enrollment numbers.

Percentages remained roughly the same, but actual body count numbers decreased. The total number of graduate students for the fall 2007 term is 655, down from 728 a year ago.

"Historically here, our graduate

GRADUATE enrollment totals

Columbia graduate enrollment numbers for the fall semester were recently released.

Emilia Klimiuk THE CHRONICLE

enrollment has fluctuated fairly substantially—more than undergraduate. There will be some efforts made to understand what those numbers mean," Lloyd said. "We're going to explore why those numbers are weaker than what we anticipated and hoped. It's too early to draw any conclusions."

Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs, said Columbia doesn't have the intent to grow its graduate enrollment the same way it does its undergraduate, but also said the college wants to better understand "where we expect to be with graduate enrollment long term."

In regard to the size of the student body,

Kelly said Columbia hired more than 50 new full-time faculty and staff for the academic year, which is "about a 6 percent increase" compared to a student body increase of 4.5 percent.

"Columbia's been growing every year the 24 years I've been here, and every year there are challenges that the growth presents, but I think the college has never been more working together as a team to make sure that the enrollment gains don't impact quality," Kelly said.

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Fall 2007 enrollment highlights

- Forty-one percent of new freshman come from out of state, up from 29 percent five years ago.

- Forty-six states are represented by students at Columbia. New Mexico, Utah, West Virginia and North Dakota are the only states without representation.

- Females make up 52 percent of incoming freshman undergraduate students and 51 percent of undergraduate transfer students.

- The average age of incoming undergraduate freshman is 19 for males, 18 for females. The average age of transfer undergraduate students is 23 for male, 21 for females.

- Seventy percent of the graduate enrollment is female.

- The number of students with a designated ethnicity of "unknown" is 988, up from 878 a year ago.

- Eighty-Nine percent of the undergraduate student body attend full-time. Full-time graduate students make up 62 percent of the graduate student body.

» **US of CC**

Continued from PG. 8

Tentative election dates forthcoming

Steve Kapelke, provost, senior vice president and representative from administration negotiations, said the relationship with the staff has been, above all, respectful. He stressed that meeting almost every week and being as respectful as possible is all they can do at this point with negotiators from both the college and the staff union.

"The biggest challenge in the first contract is in the fact that it is just that, a first contract, whereas with the part-time faculty, we had a contract from past negotiations and we were able to build on that," Kapelke said. "With the staff, there is no contract... and that can be a little time consuming, not necessarily more difficult, but there were more [items to be drafted]."

This fall, the US of CC plans to hold elections for new leadership to replace interim officers. They plan to create building and department representation where each building will be accounted for by go-to staff members. According to McGrath, there are more than 500 people in the staff bargaining committee in the process of creating an umbrella structure for all departments.

The preliminary efforts to organize the US of CC were not easy, according to staff union officers. A vote in Octo-

ber 2004 had the college administration challenging the official employment status of 60 staff members. The voter disputes lead (to what appeared to the administration) to be a majority vote against the creation of a staff union. After taking the matter to the National Labor Relations Board and getting 42 of the votes approved the results of the vote, however, reflected pro-union support 175 to 163.

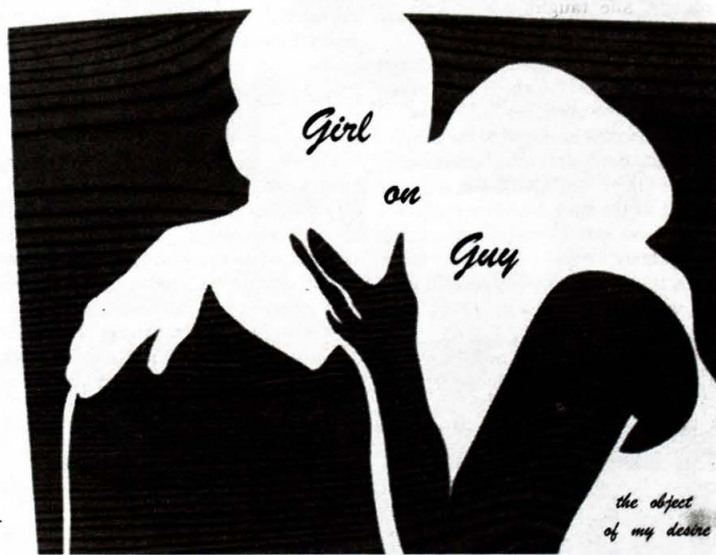
Reflecting on the resistance in creating a part-time faculty union, Susan Strong-Dowd, US of CC interim vice president, said she thinks the issue is sometimes painted as an adversarial relationship.

"It ultimately made the school stronger and the faculty much more confident and happier and ultimately served the students," Strong-Dowd said. "The goals are made in terms of making the college very student-oriented."

According to Bright, there is no date set for a negotiation meeting with the staff, but when one is made, the US of CC will announce its new director and set a tentative date for the elections of permanent staff officers.

"When I started we didn't have e-mail, for example, we did everything by hard copy. We actually did more work training staff members in the new technologies that would arise and we would need people to be better trained to handle these new departmental instruments," McGrath said. "These people are good people; they have been with the college for a long time, and now with a union we have legal representation and lawyers to back us up."

chronicle@colum.edu



the object
of my desire

Courtesy JENNIFER MURRAY

» **Girl on guy**

Continued from PG. 4

Artists credits father

There are erotic pictures sewn into cloth, comic strips and drawings of sexual role reversals.

"Girl on Guy" also features three sketchbooks from Barley.

"[The sketchbooks] are a journal of my life and what's going on in my head," Barley said. Even though one of her sketchbooks was stolen before she could submit it to

the exhibit, her three remaining sketchbooks captures much more than life, they capture her experiences and moods, sometimes abstract, and mostly figurative, Barley said.

Barley said she credits her father as one of the "most loving individuals" she has ever met. Also, she said that falling in love with different men and discovering love also prompted her to express her love for men through art.

"[Society's] idea of feminism is different than what it actually is. It's more about love and equality," Barley said. "I love men!"

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Arts & Entertainment

The Bottom Line

Friends can't handle the truth



by Jessica Galliard
Assistant A&E Editor

This is the time when we make the most mistakes and the last years when we can use our youth as excuses for said mistakes. Yet since I have been in college, I have seen so many friends dig themselves into the deepest holes, over and over, never learning anything from their bad decisions. But what is the most difficult part of seeing a close friend in the middle of a downward spiral? Every time I tell the truth and call her out on a bad move, I end up losing my friend for a while, if not forever.

My best friend and I have been incredibly close since she moved to Kansas our junior year of high school. We still talk on the phone for at least an hour every night. She has always been a little rebellious because of her Catholic upbringing and was both a good and bad influence on me. She taught me how to smoke my first cigarette, made me skip school with her to go to the movies and constantly gave me sex tips and advice that I may never need or want to use.

But after her heart was broken and her mind was played with by a close guy friend of ours, she was never the same. She started acting out more than usual,

sleeping around with some shady fellas, drinking almost every night and quit taking medications she had taken for years.

She went back to an ex-boyfriend, with whom she had a rocky and somewhat abusive relationship, and moved from Kansas to Philadelphia.

Not long after they got back together, they moved to Florida together so he could go to flight school and she could be with him. She decided not to go to college in Florida as she had in Philadelphia, so instead she worked at a sketchy convenience store and shared a car with her boyfriend.

Incredibly unhappy in Florida, with hardly any friends and an abusive, stoner boyfriend, she finally broke it off and moved back to Philadelphia. I thought she would straighten up a bit after seeing how worthless alcohol and pot had made her boyfriend. But almost immediately after moving back and being unattached to a guy, she was lost, confused and back to her old methods of sleeping around and drinking like a fish.

Almost every phone call I get from her now is about her drunken night of partying and messing around with another guy, and I can't help but feel that I have lost the beautiful, confident friend I once cared for like the sister I never had.

I've always been an incredibly straightforward person, telling it like it is and refraining from sugarcoating anything. So, like with all of my friends, when I called her out and told her to get her act together, I barely got through half of what I was trying to say before she hung up and didn't speak to me for about a week.

People have such a difficult time hearing the truth when they have messed up, especially when it comes from a close friend. I think the false expectations most

people have—for their friends to coddle them and make them feel better when something has gone wrong—stem partially from parents not stepping up to the plate or holding any authority over their children.

Growing up, my parents never coddled me and never tried to be the "cool parents." They were my authority figures, but they weren't afraid to have fun with us. They gave us some tough love and taught us to take responsibility for our actions, admit we messed up and learn from it. But they were also there for me when I needed advice. I understood from a very young age that bad decisions lead to harsh consequences. And although I'm still learning and struggling to make the right decisions, I have no tolerance for people who take no responsibility for their actions and gain nothing from a mistake.

The truth hurts. Heck, it can be incredibly painful. But when we base our perceptions of ourselves on lies from our close friends, the people we should count on to knock some sense into us, everything can become distorted. The way we view other people will be distorted, the way we handle relationships will be distorted and the way we interact with our other friends will become distorted, thus creating a never-ending chain of "white lies."

We can't move forward and grow into the people we want to become and improve ourselves if we can't face the truth and own up to it. And if we can't tell the truth to our friends, they will never change and better themselves, which will inevitably and eventually create a rift.

The bottom line is that we live in a society of lies, outward beauty and internal imposters. So the least we can do is tell the truth once in a while to the people who really matter—our friends.

Calendar

Monday

Here's your chance, dorks: Dating for Nerds is at Sheffield's Beer and Wine Garden, 3258 N. Sheffield Ave., 7 to 10 p.m. A \$20-\$25 fee is required.

Call (312) 265-6085 for more information.

Tuesday

Death by Roo Roo performs at the Lakeshore Theater, 3175 N. Broadway St., as part of the theater's Upright Citizens Brigade weekly series. Tickets are \$15.

For more information, visit lakeshoretheater.com.

Wednesday

Empty Bottle's Fifth Annual Adventures in Modern Music kicks off tonight with bands like White Magic. The show is at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$15.

For more information, call (773) 276-3600.

Thursday

Name that tune! The popular game show is back. Cornelia's, 750 W. Cornelia Ave., hosts a free session from 7 to 10 p.m.

For more information, call (773) 248-8333.

Friday

Galleries and studios open their doors tonight as part of Pilsen East Artists' Open House. Festivities begin at 2003 S. Halsted St. at 6 p.m. Admission is free.

For more information, visit chicagoartsdistrict.org/openhouse.

Saturday

The Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago Ave., opens the "Sympathy for the Devil" exhibit for its 40th anniversary.

For more information, call the museum at (312) 280-2660.

Sunday

PAWS Chicago hosts its Run For Lives, a dog and family walk or run at the North Avenue bridge at Lake Shore Drive at 9 a.m.

For more information, visit pawschicago.org.

Chrissy Knows Best

Baby jean-iuses make me sick



by Chrissy Mahlmeister
Managing Editor

Nothing weirds me out more than a cute, cuddly baby packed uncomfortably in jeans and a hoodie. Too many parents are taking out their down-and-out woes on their kids by forcing them to look and act like small adults. I think parents forget that all babies know how to do is drool and eat Cheerios.

By the time the babies are 16, parents everywhere are sobbing over their torn

hip-huggers and too-tight tube tops just wishing they could go back to bibs and blankets. How can a diaper properly fit into those bad boys anyway? Maybe that's why babies are crying all the time—pure discomfort. That's one of the beauts of being a tiny tot—you're a master lounge. So leave them in PJs all day, they've got no business to attend to, unless it's in their diapy.

Which brings me to another frightening point—potty training babies from practically the second they are born. Say what? Yeah, it's true, the Chicago Tribune said so. On Sept. 13 the Tribune published an article about "Babies loose and diaper free," translated into: Moms don't want to deal with babies being, uh, babies and force them to pee outside, in sinks, or wherever.

Apparently babies can signal when they have to go from an incredibly young age, but seriously, just let them be. Babies just need to sleep a lot, eat a lot and poop a lot—that's the definition of being a baby. And seriously, everyone loves cuddlin' a little guy,

but if he has no diaper on, no thanks.

Another thing I don't and will never understand is child beauty pageants. The poor girls don't know they are mini drag queens, and that's just plain upsetting. Here the mothers are tousling their hair, sprinkling glitter on their teeny noses and looking tanner than my overcooked hot dog I devoured at lunch. All for what?

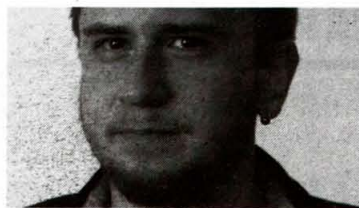
The mothers all stand hopeful in the crowd, hands clenched and eyes on the edge of tears, because they know what they've done. They've transformed their beautiful daughter into a trophy-hungry monster that will practice her bathing suit walk 20 times a day until she gets it PERFECT, while other 8-year-olds are practicing how to float at the shallow end of the pool or feverishly peeling apart Fruit Roll Ups and devouring them just as quickly.

All in all, parents need to just calm the heck down. Let your kids wear sweats, let them poop their pants and let them play dress-up—but, please, don't dress them up yourselves.

Top 5



Quinn Milton, Copy Editor



Steve Baltrukonis, Copy Chief



Sara Harvey, Copy Editor

Reasons why the Blue Line isn't as bad as you think

Submedia: In the tunnel between the Clark and Lake stop and the Washington stop there is a moving image. A few months ago it was an ad for Windows Vista, but now it's some pink blooming flower, at least that's what it looks like to me. Either way, it's pretty sweet.

Tourists: They're on nearly every el line, but the Blue Line gets all those coming from O'Hare International Airport, which is endlessly amusing. With suitcases piled up next to them and maps strewn out on top, they look constantly confused and paranoid about when they're supposed to get off.

The concession stand at LaSalle: Most concession stands at el stations have the usual: gum, drinks, newspapers and magazines. But at LaSalle, you can smell the owner's incense and hear his blasting reggae music before you reach the top of the stairs.

Sports fans: Unlike the Red Line, when a Cubs game gets out, Blue Line riders are in the clear from the sweaty, drunken red-and-blue clad fans.

My apartment: I live off the Blue Line. And by "off the Blue Line," I mean the el is literally feet from my porch. So the next time you fly by above ground, make sure to wave.

Movies concerning unorthodox pregnancies

The Fly: Yeah, it's creepy enough seeing Jeff Goldblum decay and become the fiendish Brundlefly, but it's even creepier when we get a glimpse of his unborn child. For more on that, see *The Fly 2*, which would've been more aptly named *Son of the Fly*.

Alien: I still remember the first time I saw that horseshoe crab-like creature clinging to the face of that hapless, helpless space-man as it laid its eggs in his esophagus. It makes my chest hurt just thinking about that thing's brood bursting out of a ribcage.

Junior: The less said, the better.

Rosemary's Baby: Nothing less orthodox than finding out that your unborn child is, in fact, the antichrist. It kind of explains why that cult has been so nurturing around you, though.

Dead Alive: Yes, that's right. Your senses do not deceive you. This movie from the early career of Peter Jackson, who brought us *Lord of the Rings*, and the queasily comedic answer to the question of "what happens if two zombies have sex?" Well, it seems obvious in retrospect: They have a zombie baby.

Movies that never should have been remade

The Pink Panther (1963): The 2006 version was loosely based on the original. Steve Martin did a sorry job of filling Sellers' shoes, acting the part of a stupid buffoon instead of being clumsy (a more subtle kind of stupid).

Rollerball (1975): The first version, a futuristic thriller, was about a game in which murdering the other players became the main goal. The 2002 version seems like a game for wimps, with pansy extraordinaire Chris Klein leading the pack.

Death Takes a Holiday (1934): Brad Pitt (aka Angel of Death) sucks the life out of *Meet Joe Black* this movie's 1998 counterpart. The plot is basically the same, only there are three hours of cheesy dialogue and a premature peak (Brad Pitt getting hit by a truck).

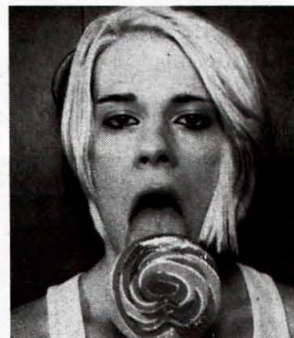
Planet of the Apes (1968): Tim Burton seemed like the perfect guy to remake this classic sci-fi film in 2001. Outstanding makeup aside, the result was shallow and distorted, stifling the original intricacy of the philosophical issues.

Psycho (1960): The 1998 remake with Vince Vaughn and Anne Heche was a carbon copy of the original—the result pales in comparison. Gus Van Sant would have done well to create a new adaptation, not a poorly-executed homage.

Jack Ass

OF THE WEEK

Oops ... America embarrassed itself again



Courtesy MYSPACE

As the death toll accumulates in Iraq, genocide continues in Darfur and the world's scientists question whether the fate of our planet lies in the balance, we Americans have finally found a common issue that generates our collective concern and interest.

On the night of Sept. 9, Britney Spears performed her song "Gimme More" at the top of MTV's Video Music Awards. What was meant to be her "comeback" proved to be anything but—Spears looked dazed as she wobbled through the number, barely even attempting to synch her lips with the oft-incomprehensible recording. She left the audiences' mouths agape as her career seemed to take a nosedive before their very eyes.

Lucky for Britney, someone was about to become an even bigger jack ass. Two days after the debacle, YouTube.com user Chris Crocker posted a video entitled, "LEAVE BRITNEY ALONE!" Crocker filmed himself looking like a psychopathic teenage girl, bawling about the criticism aimed at Britney's performance. "She's a human!" he tearfully raged, "Her song is called 'Gimme More' for a reason ... because all you people want is more, more, more, more, more!" In only a few days, the video was seen by more than five million viewers, and Crocker rocketed to celebrity status—if only for the moment.

Suddenly Crocker's words were blaring through all the national news coverage: "She lost an aunt, she went through a divorce, she had two f----- kids, her husband turned out to be a user, a cheater, and now she's going through a custody battle ... You're lucky she even performed for you bastards!"

One can only be reminded of the saying, "cry me a f----- river."

Any society that glorifies such a pathetic spectacle should be first and foremost ashamed of itself. Anyone who watches Crocker's video ends up feeling like a jack ass for having viewed it in the first place.

—M. Fagerholm



MCT

HOW TO

Budget without being a bum

with Jessica Galliat



Broke as a joke. A millionaire when I have a dollar, a bum when I don't.

However you word it, trying to support yourself in college will leave you with little for fun time. But instead of following the standard formula for creating a budget, try some alternative methods to save money when you need it the most.

School supplies

- Reuse your old notebooks. Instead of shelling out \$5 for a brand new 5-subject notebook for the semester, use your notebook from last semester until all of the paper is gone. And if you don't have leftover notebooks, ask a wasteful friend if he or she has any to give away.

- Columbia departments give away pens like STIs. So there really is no need to spend a few bucks every semester on fancy pens you will eventually lose. Need pencils? Just make sure you stock up on those teacher survey days when they give out No. 2 pencils to fill in those dang bubble sheets.

- Everyone knows the campus bookstore rips off students at buy-back time. I've sold more than half of my textbooks online at Amazon.com and received all of my money if not more back from said sales. Sure, it takes a little work to package and ship the book, but it's worth it when you see the money from your sale magically appear in your bank account.

Food

- No, we're not suburban housewives, but coupons are actually really awesome and help you save at the cash register. All it takes is a quick read through that stack of ads in the Sunday newspaper, and you'll probably find at least one coupon for something you buy often.

- When in doubt, throw it in some Tupperware and stick it in the fridge. You may not think those leftover tacos will be good later, but when the only options left in the pantry are a can of corn or brown sugar, you'll wish you had saved those last few bites.

- Sure, we're supposed to share, but when you're on a budget, just say no to your moocher friends. It's great to have people over at your place to hang out when you're cooking or eating food, but if they are your real friends, they'll understand when you're eating steak and potatoes in front of them as their stomachs growl and moan.

Miscellaneous

- Coin laundry is for chumps. Instead, invest in a bottle of Febreze and let your clothes hang out the window overnight.

- Get creative. There are lots of things around the house that can be used in place of things like cleaning products. Soaking a piece of bread in vinegar can take out funky smells in your house, and instead of falling prey to the monster that is the Swiffer, buy a broom. They're cheap, and you don't have to keep buying those stupid disposable pads for the Swiffer.

Freedom may not be free, but a lot of other stuff is.

'A Promise of Violence': Cronenberg's 'Eastern Promises' is a winner

by Matt Fagerholm
Assistant A&E Editor

FEW THINGS are more pleasurable for audiences than knowing they are in the hands of a master. A strong directorial credit often functions as a consolation to paying customers intent on getting their money's worth. Yet it also offers a promise to discriminating cinephiles that they are in for an experience that is unpredictable, wholly unique and often artistic.

Eastern Promises is not David Cronenberg's finest feature, but it is far more rewarding than the best work of countless lesser filmmakers. Like Alfred Hitchcock's *Torn Curtain*, another good film by a great director, *Promises* has the structure of a standard genre piece, yet twists it in ways that are exciting for their sheer audacity. Both films tell seemingly bland, routine stories that are interrupted by moments of raw power and shocking violence.

In some ways, this film resembles Cronenberg's last picture, the marvelous *A History of Violence*, which also starred Viggo Mortensen as a deceptively simple man whose true nature was brought into question. Yet while *History* asked whether a good man is capable of being violent, *Promises* asks whether a violent man has the capacity to be good.

Mortensen plays Nikolai Luzhin, the Russian-born driver for one of London's most well-known crime families. The family is part of the Vory V. Zakone, criminal brotherhood, which conducted underground sex trafficking that resulted in the death of a 14-year-old girl. While giving birth to a baby, the young victim dies in a London hospital, where a midwife named Anna—played by Naomi Watts—discovers the girl's diary. As Anna discovers more about the girl's horrific story, she meets Nikolai by chance, and ends up getting tracked by the brotherhood's formidable leader Semyon, elegantly portrayed by Armin Mueller-Stahl.

Much of the suspense centers around Nikolai, whose loyalties remain ambiguous despite his blatant devotion to the crime boss. Semyon's son Kirill, Vincent Cassel, develops something resembling a sibling rivalry with Nikolai, whose deeply-chiseled face barely illustrates a recognizable emotion. Mortensen's performance is so mesmerizing precisely because it is so ominous. Watts is less fortunate in a role that wastes her exceptional talent by giving her little more to do than shoot concerned glares from the sidelines. Cronenberg is much more interested in the mystery lying beneath the tattoos of criminals whose bodily markings are meant to illustrate their life stories. Much of this seems to be awfully familiar ground for the filmmaker to tread so soon after *Violence*, yet he still manages to firmly hold his audience in a vice grip nonetheless.

In the middle of *Torn Curtain*, Hitchcock's seemingly routine tale of international espionage, came a scene so brutal and uncompromising that it gave viewers a jarring whiplash—reminding them that they were watching a movie by a man willing to take chances. There's a scene like that in *Eastern Promises*, which practically caused a riot during one of its opening night screenings in Chicago. The scene is shocking not only for its graphic violence, but also because of its unapologetic use of male nudity, which has never been commonplace on mainstream American screens. While Hitchcock's scene proved just how hard it was to kill a man, Cronenberg's scene proves a similar truth: how hard it is to fight off two knife-wielding assassins while naked and unarmed in a steam-filled bathhouse. It's a filmmaking tour-de-force that is out of synch with

everything surrounding it.

The rest of the film isn't quite up to the boldness and breathtaking energy of that scene, but it's still an efficiently engrossing thriller all the same. Yet many viewers have expressed frustration that the film simply isn't dark enough, and that a more hopeless, nihilistic conclusion would have been more dramatically satisfying. Such a complaint says more about the audience than the film itself.

At last year's Cannes Film Festival, Cronenberg presented a short film entitled *At the Suicide of the Last Jew in the World in the Last Cinema in the World*. It basically consisted of Cronenberg holding a gun to his head as radio hosts report the death of cinema. Film has become so commoditized that audience expectations are beginning to kill off the existence of art that dares to be subversive. Yet considering the fact that *Eastern*



Viggo Mortensen stars in the new film, 'Eastern Promises.'

AP

Promises won the People's Choice Award at this year's Toronto Film Festival, it seems there are still filmgoers willing to trust an artist enough to simply experience their work, leaving their preconceptions at the door.

Trust this promise: this film will take you places that are unex-

ed and predictable, seductive and repulsive, thrilling and exasperating. But if you keep your mind open, along with your eyes, you won't leave disappointed.

mfagerholm@chroniclemail.com




I WANT

TEAM SPIRIT

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Comedy Central star, comedian is 'kind of a freak'

Michael Ian Black discusses his first stand-up comedy album

by Jessica Galliard
Assistant A&E Editor

At 36 years old, Michael Ian Black is a college dropout who has jumped from one job to another for quite a while. But instead of listing odd jobs on his resume, he can list his job as the voice of a sock puppet dog on commercials for PetSmart, his numerous commentative appearances on the "I Love the" series on VH1, his co-starring role in NBC's "Ed" and starring role in Comedy Central's short-lived but cult favorite "Stella."

Now, in his first stand-up comedy album, *Michael Ian Black is a Wonderful Man*, Black breaks away from the group of work he is usually known for and stands alone to talk about life experiences. Black talks with *The Chronicle* about his lack of maturity and drunk people in New Orleans.

The Chronicle: What struggles did you face in becoming a comedian?

Michael Ian Black: The truth is, I didn't struggle, which probably isn't what you want to hear. I started this comedy group in college and that's pretty much all I've been doing since then. I mean, I shouldn't be so flip about it. I do struggle; I struggle every day, because it's hard to do what I do. But it doesn't feel like a struggle, because I enjoy doing it. I would say if you want to get into comedy just do it. That's the nice thing about living when we live is that you have endless opportunities to create content, meaning comedy, for [an] endless number of outlets. You can perform live, you can perform for the Internet, there's just a mil-

lion ways to go about it and no one of those ways is right and no one of those ways is wrong. You just follow your instinct and it will take you where it takes you.

What makes a wonderful man and why are you one?

I just thought it was a funny title because it seems so blatantly false to me. That's a funny thing to say, that I'm a wonderful man.

You don't think you're a wonderful man?

I have my flaws. I definitely have my flaws. Thank God none of them are physical. Basically I'm perfect.

The majority of your audience is made up of college-age people. Do you ever feel far removed from your own age group?

It's weird because I was having this conversation with my wife yesterday. Because we were in a playground and I was looking at these moms and dads [who are my age] with their kids and I said, "I don't feel like these people are my peers." I don't really understand these people so much. I don't relate to them the same way I relate to younger people in maybe their 20s, and I think it's because I'm immature.

You were born in Chicago and recorded this CD at the Lakeshore Theater. What do you like about the city and how do you feel about Chicago audiences?

The reason we recorded in Chicago is because Chicago has always been a friendly city to me. It's a great comedy city and has a great tradition with comedy. Audiences there are always really friendly and supportive. In New York and Los Angeles, audiences tend to be a little more cynical and jaded, and they're generally still good but they're not quite as responsive. I love the



Known for his work on 'I Love the' shows on VH1 and Comedy Central's 'Stella,' Michael Ian Black releases his first stand-up comedy album on Sept. 25.

Courtesy COMEDY CENTRAL

city, and I love the people in the city.

What did you get out of your time performing in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, and how do you decide as a comedian when it's OK to joke about something serious?

It was really nice to be in New Orleans, actually. We did feel like we were contributing somewhat. It was about a year after [Hurricane Katrina], and we just wanted to make people laugh and do a good show. In terms of it being too soon to joke? Maybe it's still too soon, but I still tell the jokes. I don't have a lot of sensitivity, unfortunately. I do think that joking about things is fine.

Maybe that's sort of an obvious thing to say, but I think that a lot of times there's such a sensitivity and such a reluctance to talk about tragedy in a comedic way. You don't want to be insensitive to the point of callousness, but I think it's fine to joke and to make jokes.

Now that you've moved from TV to stand-up, where will you go from here?

I've heard Denmark is nice.
Michael Ian Black is a *Wonderful Man* will be released Sept. 25. For more of this interview, visit columbiachronicle.com.

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LIGHTS, CAMERA, IRAQ

Hollywood's new slate of anti-war films arrive from left field

The car screeches to a halt as its driver peers through the window. His eyes reflect a mixture of sorrow and alarm as they are diverted to a school's American flag hanging upside down. The man pulls off the road and forces one of the school's janitors to hang it back correctly, explaining that the sight of an upside down flag communicates that the country is in a state of emergency. With his son fighting in Iraq, the worried father wants to be certain that the country he fought for in Vietnam is indeed in no such state. It isn't until much later when the man stops outside the same school and duct tapes the flag to its pole. This time, however, the man has made sure the flag is permanently flying in one direction, and it's not right-side up.

This is the final image witnessed in writer/director Paul Haggis' latest drama *In the Valley of Elah*. It stars Tommy Lee Jones as the proud war veteran who's racked with doubt and despair when he learns that his son was mysteriously killed in Iraq. As Jones attempts to uncover the truth about his son's fate, the current war's chaotic nature comes into bristling focus. *Elah* is among the first of several films unleashed upon mainstream audiences this season that directly criticize the Iraq war within the structure of a fictionalized narrative.

Just by stepping into a random theater and viewing the coming attractions, a filmgoer has a good chance of seeing the following: Reese Witherspoon sobbing over the CIA's unorthodox interrogation of her Egyptian husband in *Rendition*; John Cusack crumbling as a father unable to face the war's detrimental effects to his family in *Grace is Gone*; and Tom Cruise gnashing

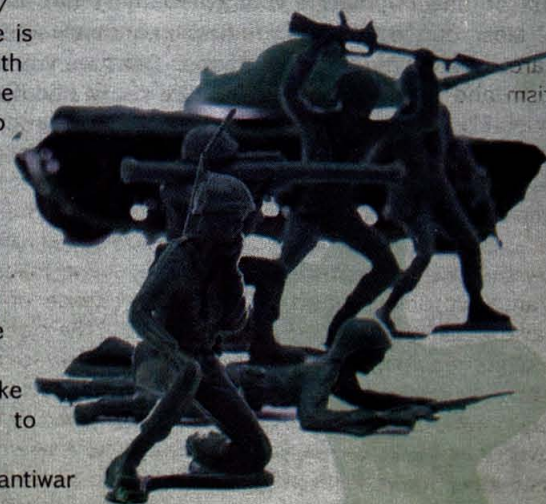
his
teeth
i
Lions for
Lambs.

Cruise plays a villainous right-wing congressman who forcefully asks muckraking journalist Meryl Streep if she wants to win the War on Terror, which he labels as the "quintessential question" of our time. "Yes or no?" he fires. The same trailer also includes Robert Redford, the film's famously left-wing producer/director, telling a young man, "Rome is burning, son! The problem isn't with the people who started this thing. The problem is with us—all of us, who do nothing!" Even ads for *Elah* include the line, "We shouldn't send heroes to places like Iraq."

Although these trailers may seem more like political ads than Hollywood formulas, Columbia film and video faculty member Ron Falzone sees things differently.

"Hollywood is simply trying to stroke our prejudices, not to tell us what to think or what to do," Falzone said.

He likened this current string of antiwar





Story by
Matt
Fagerholm

Graphics by
Allyson
McGovern

films to the surprise money-makers of 2004, *The Passion of the Christ* and *Fahrenheit 9/11*. Each film aimed to attract an opposite end of the political spectrum.

"[The films] want you to know when you walk into the theater what you're going to feel," Falzone said. "God forbid [they] should ever have your beliefs questioned. They are trying to keep you out of the theater if you disagree with them. And if you are in the movie theater, they're doing everything they can to convince you that not only are you right, but you're good for being right."

Echoing Falzone's opinion is Adam C. Navarro-Lowery, 29, a veteran of the war in Kosovo.

"I think Hollywood isn't concerned in educating the masses," Navarro-Lowery said. "It's more concerned in people lining their pockets, so accuracy is negotiable."

Though he is opposed to the Iraq war, Navarro-Lowery is skeptical of antiwar offerings from Hollywood and finds independently financed documentaries more trustworthy. Yet Sam Ellison, 22, a veteran of the war in Iraq, also finds a lack of truth in some alleged "non-fiction" fare.

"There's a tendency to victimize the soldier, like in *Fahrenheit 9/11*," Ellison said. "[Michael Moore] made it seem like soldiers were all people who were poor and uneducated and they only joined the military to get out of poverty, which is very much untrue. Most of the people in the military [who] are serving in combat joined out of patriotism and they want to do the job."

Although Ellison is open about his support for the current war, he said he's opposed to films that glorify war.

"All movies that are about war should be anti-war," Ellison said. "All you have to do to show that war is bad is to show war."

Veteran Navy officer David J. Kalbfleisch, 28, is also against Hollywood glorifying militaristic culture, citing last spring's *300* as an example.

"It plays into our cultural programming that says everything we do is just and noble, and that the United States is infallible," Kalbfleisch said. "It encourages people not

to question government activities."

After serving in Iraq for more than five years, the antiwar Kalbfleisch is now running as a Green Party candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives Illinois 10th District. Yet he has little faith in the anti-war films soon arriving in wide release.

"Movies that depict war and militarism negatively still serve as recruiting videos in the same way that *Super Size Me* was a 90-minute long McDonalds commercial," Kalbfleisch said.

Despite these various misgivings, Chicago Tribune film critic Michael Phillips sees a more fundamental problem facing these new war films.

"They all have a very tough go at the box office," Phillips said. "And the problem is most of them aren't very good."

Phillips said even *In the Valley of Elah*, a film he liked, faltered in its final moments.

"Haggis can't resist hitting the polemical point smack on the nose in the last five minutes," Phillips said. "And it undoes a lot of the good and a lot of the genuine human interest present in the rest of the story."

He also said the challenge facing these films is that they can't simply be topical or timely—they have to work as entertainment. A comedy like *MASH*, Phillips recalls, was so funny that nobody resisted the politics in it.

"My dad loved that movie and he's a West Point right-wing guy," he said.

The box office can only wait and see whether audiences will cash in on the entertainment value of films like *Day Zero*, starring Elijah Wood as a young writer who's

given 30 days to report for duty in Iraq. On Sept. 8, Brian De Palma won the Silver Lion award at the Venice Film Festival for *Redacted*, which stages a brutal homicide committed by U.S. troops. The film is already stirring up fiery controversy—mostly from people who plan not to see the film.

"It takes a long time to make dramatic sense of a controversial war," Phillips said. "There's no mystery why people tend to look back to other conflicts to make sense of the current ones."

Two current films use the Vietnam war to blatantly comment on the present. Julie Taymor's musical *Across the Universe*, which opened nationwide Sept. 21, features flower

children using old Beatles hits to sing an anti-war melody. And Brett Morgen's *Chicago 10*, which is scheduled to play at this year's Chicago International Film Festival, utilizes motion-capture animation to tell the true story of eight anti-war demonstrators put on trial after the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

Yet the repetition of anti-war themes sustained by each of these films is beginning to grate on the nerves of many American filmgoers. Ron Falzone includes himself in this category, while hoping he sees a war film one day that has the courage to be bold.

"The bold [war films] would be the ones that say out loud what the public feels, but doesn't express themselves," Falzone said, while not expressing much hope that Hollywood has many of those in store. "To paraphrase Fred Allen, 'You could take all the courage in Hollywood and fit it into the naval of a flea and still have room for an agent's heart.'"

The only film about the Iraq war this year that thor-

"[The films] want you to know when you walk into the theater what you're going to feel ... They are trying to keep you out of the theater if you disagree with them. And if you are in the movie theater, they're doing everything they can to convince you that not only are you right, but you're good for being right."

- Ron Falzone

oughly

pleased Michael

Phillips was Charles Fergu-

son's barely-released documentary *No End in Sight*. By allowing people involved in the Iraq war to tell the story as they see it, the film drew nearly unanimous critical acclaim, and has the chance to be discovered by filmgoers on DVD.

Can Hollywood pull off such a miracle—release a film about the Iraq war that successfully connects with mainstream audiences as well as critics? To paraphrase a certain anti-war entertainer, "The answer, my readers, is blowin' in the wind."

Clever cupcakes, sweets heat up the baking scene

Columbia student bakes her way into the specialty pastry market

by Jessica Galliard
Assistant A&E Editor

After her one-and-a-half-year-old son, Teno, goes to bed at 7 p.m. every night, senior journalism major Natalie Slater's night begins to heat up. She sets up her work station, preparing for a long night of getting dirty in the kitchen ahead of her.

With the flip of a switch, Slater preheats the oven and begins a frenzy of baking specialty cupcakes and other sweets. After baking mainly for her friends and family for years, Slater developed her own baking business, Bake and Destroy, and a blog to post her recipes, both vegan and non-vegan, and divulge some tips and tricks for wanna-be bakers. Her inventive sweets and uninhibited, laugh-out-loud blog are just a small taste of the "punk rock domestic" movement of alternative bakers.

Ranging from her Vegan Elvis Comeback Special cupcakes made from bananas and vegan chocolate with peanut butter frosting to her German chocolate cookies, Slater's cupcakes suit anyone with a sweet tooth. Her themes and ideas for her cupcakes are inspired by songs or artwork and made from whatever is available, she said.

"I always want the idea behind the flavor to come through the way the cupcake looks," Slater said. "You might not necessarily look at it and guess what the ingredients are."

Growing up, Slater said her mom always baked, and she loved helping in the kitchen. When she began staying at her home with her son, Slater began experimenting in the kitchen during her down time to fight off boredom, she said.

The word about her innovative cupcakes and cakes spread from her friends to local merchants, like the now-defunct Filter, 1585 N. Milwaukee Ave., the cafe and coffee shop where she began selling vegan cupcakes weekly. Other cafes also requested Slater make custom flavors of cupcakes for them, sometimes requesting six dozen a week, after Filter customers responded well to her work and even contacted her directly for their own custom treats.



Senior journalism major Natalie Slater made these vegan cupcakes, above, for her comeback to baking. Below, Slater makes T-shirts and stickers for her business, Bake and Destroy.

Courtesy NATALIE SLATER

"At the time it was fine, because there's a commercial kitchen by my house that I can rent time at with lots of room for storage," Slater said. "It was a really nice way to make extra money and do things that I want."

Now that Slater has started taking classes again this fall at Columbia, she has scaled her business back to baking out of her house when she can just for friends and family.

But her blog, nataliecakes.wordpress.com, with frequent updates, recipes and some insight into the world of baking has received more than 100,000 hits from all over the world in the nine months it has been up. Some of her readers have even sent Slater gifts as a "thank you" for recipes.

"[They're] people that are thinking the same way as me," Slater said. "They're holding onto what they are, but they're settling down and decorating their houses and feeding their kids [like I am]. It's a cool exchange

of information with other people."

Slater wanted an honest blog where she could talk about recipes gone wrong and write the way she wanted to, contrary to most recipe websites that talk about great recipes that went perfectly, she said.

"So much stuff I found online was just like recipe sites where everything was great, everyone loved it; that's not how it worked for me. Some of my crap was terrible," Slater said. "I just wanted to have a place where I could write about that, and maybe other people that were mediocre could read it and think it was funny."

Slater said she worked as a baker and learned a lot about the quality of baking at Letizia's Bakery, 2144 W. Division St., a family-owned, all-natural bakery.

Fabio Sorano, manager of Letizia's, said the way Slater goes about baking and blogging about her work is very new-age and almost a form of artistic expression.

"When you look at something like baking, it's a form of expression, a form of something you imagine and vision. You can definitely express yourself through food," Sorano said. "She brought me some really cool cupcakes. I think it's definitely very interesting."

Although Slater started out baking when she was watching Teno at home, Slater said she grew into treating it as a form of artwork. With a short attention span, she said baking is a great outlet for her when she has trouble concentrating on a drawing or any other piece of art.

"I'm full of creative energy, but I can't sit down and do anything with it. I can't concentrate on artwork," Slater said. "Baking is perfect because it takes 40 minutes, and when you're done you have something to show for it."

Jessica Hallihan, an accountant and now friend of Slater's, has been a fan of her cupcakes for a long time. When she was tattooed on the show "L.A. Ink," she even brought a batch of Slater's cupcakes with her for the tattoo artists on the show.

"They're just creative, kind of out-there flavors," Hallihan said. "She goes out of her way to decorate them, above and beyond what others would normally do."

Even though Slater has cut back in how many sweets she makes to keep up with her classwork, Hallihan said she thinks Slater will continue baking whenever she can.

"I don't think that she'll stop," Hallihan said. "I think it's a good outlet for her."

But aside from providing a creative outlet for her and producing some incredibly tasty treats, Slater said baking is something she loves to do for her son.

"I just want my son to remember that his mom loved him and loved to bake for him," Slater said. "I always remember my mom baking for me, and I want him to have the same memories when he grows up."

To see more recipes and tips from Slater, check out her blog at nataliecakes.wordpress.com or her MySpace at myspace.com/bakeanddestroy.

jgalliard@chroniclemail.com

Thai Sweet Coconut Cupcakes with Caramel Topping

Ingredients:

1 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 tsp baking powder
1/4 tsp baking soda
1/4 tsp ground cardamom
1/4 tsp ground allspice
Pinch salt
1 tea bag
3/4 cup granulated sugar
1/4 cup unsalted butter at room temperature



3. Scoop batter into prepared pan, bake 20-25 minutes or until top springs back when lightly touched.
4. Let cool in pan for 10 minutes, then remove from pan and cool completely on wire rack. Makes one dozen cupcakes.

Caramel topping ingredients:

1 cup whipping cream
1/2 cup packed light brown sugar
1/4 cup light corn syrup
1 Tbs unsalted butter
1/4 tsp salt

1. Preheat your oven to 350 degrees and line a cupcake pan with paper liners.

2. In a bowl, mix flour, baking powder, baking soda, cardamom, allspice, salt and contents of tea bag. In a large bowl, using an electric mixer, beat together sugar and butter until well combined. Add egg whites, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Mix in vanilla. Alternately beat in flour mixture and buttermilk, making three additions of flour mixture and two of buttermilk, beating until smooth.

1. In a heavy saucepan, combine all ingredients. Heat over medium-high heat, stirring, for 2 minutes or until sugar is dissolved and butter is melted.

2. Reduce heat to medium and cook, stirring often, for 10-15 minutes or until thickened. Remove from heat and pour into a bowl to cool.

3. Stir cooled caramel well and spread or spoon over cupcakes. The caramel will thicken as it cools.



Dating credit report: See if Mr. Right lives up to his name

by Rita J. Boland
Staff Writer

DATERS NO longer need to worry whether their potential match up is a liar, cheater or even an ex-con. With a few clicks of a mouse, singles can find out if their prospective prince has a bad dating track record.

The bad-date cautious now have a multitude of online resources for spotting out a disastrous date before it happens. Websites like DontDateHimGirl.com, WhatDoYouKnowAboutRomeo.com and ManHaters.com, are attempting to build online communities for women to warn others of bad dates and bad men.

Internet-savvy singles can find a man's past dates with the help of database dating website like DontDateHimGirl.com, where members log on, post complaints and pictures of their former flames to warn other women of the potential harm of getting involved. The site has about one million subscribers, 90 percent of them being female.

"It's like a dating credit check," said Tasha Cunningham, who created DontDateHimGirl.com in 2006 after sharing too many dating horror stories with her girlfriends. With the assistance of her site, members punch in the name of their potential love interest to see what his past girlfriends have to say about him.

However, on the "She Said/He Said" part of the site, guys have the opportunity to dispute all claims of infidelity, abuse or drug use, among other things. Other members can also comment on the disputes.

DontDateHimGirl.com offers more than the ugly battle of the exes. The "DDHG

Team" offers advice and information on everything from domestic violence, to fashion and ways to deal with a break-up.

"It is really important for woman to empower themselves in all areas of their lives. Of course one of the big parts is dating and relationships. We want women to learn how to deal with anger, learn how to become more self confident, how to boost their self esteem," Cunningham said.

Although the site is geared toward women, guys can give their input on Don't Date Him Girl, too. An editorial from the site's resident male, The Average Guy, gives girls an insight into the male brain, offering hints on decoding what guys really think, including an article titled, "Does a nice dinner equal sex?"

Another site, WhatDoYouKnowAboutRomeo.com, offers a different approach to a bad date experience. This site stresses that women do not have to write a bad review about someone they have gone out with.

"Let's say you go on a date with someone, and they are perfectly nice and for whatever reason it just doesn't click. Go on Romeo, write him a good review and send him on his way," said WhatDoYouKnowAboutRomeo.com founder Elaine Schweppe.

The site launched in January, currently has 1,300 members and boasts a panel of five guys who answer questions and offer advice to the dating-challenged. Schweppe recently added the "Girl Talk" section to her site where women can post questions and relate to one another's lives.

Schweppe, who admittedly does not go on a date without first searching for him online, is "trying to give [women] a sense

of community to internet dating."

Another site, ManHaters.com, takes an extreme approach to the world of investigative dating. The site, launched in 2002 by Stephany Alexander, boasts 1.5 million hits per month and has about 200,000 members. It focuses on dating horror stories and ways to prevent future abuse of women.

Alexander was tired of hearing stories of domestic violence and infidelity and wanted to give women the means to protect themselves by offering a database of men ladies could easily access.

"Women have had it so hard over the generations, the goal is to change the way the next generation of women deal with men by making better, safer and more informed decisions about the men they date, and by networking together they can share their stories and this can happen," she said.

But the site is not for those in tumultuous relationships, where significant others constantly break up and get back together. There is a fee to edit or delete profiles posted about men. On the two aforementioned sites, posting and editing don't cost a penny.

Bryce Mulso, junior journalism major, laughed when he first heard of the idea



Online websites like DontDateHimGirl.com warn women about potential bad apples.

Courtesy LIQUID LIBRARY

of angry women posting gripes about ex-boyfriends on the Internet.

"It's pretty shallow, now that I think about it," Mulso said.

Whatever negative or positive notions people, men and women, have about the site, Alexander said everyone has to be very careful in today's world.

"I want to give women resources and show them how to [be careful] and tell them they do need to do this before they get involved with someone," Alexander said. "I have pretty much, over the last five years, heard every scam, con and abuse story that is out there and I just want to change things."

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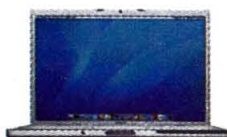


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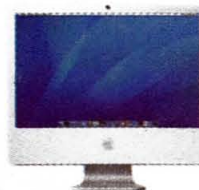
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Jessica Alba gets physical with Dane Cook

Alba discusses the challenge of finding serious roles, being off the set with Cook while filming

by Luke Smucker
Assistant A&E Editor

JESSICA ALBA'S current romantic comedy with comedian Dane Cook capitalizes on her ability to make men salivate and Cook's ability to make women swoon.

In the movie, *Good Luck Chuck*, which opened nationwide Sept. 21, Alba plays Dane Cook's love interest, Cam Wexler, a clumsy penguin trainer with a big heart. The dilemma in the movie is that Chuck had a curse put on him when he was 10 years old by a girl he refused to kiss. According to the curse, when Chuck sleeps with a girl, she is destined to find true love in the next man she meets. When Chuck falls for Cam Wexler (Alba), he has to find a way to show her he loves her while still avoiding sleeping with her.

The Chronicle recently spoke with Jessica Alba about her current role and working with Dane Cook.

The Chronicle: How was physical comedy used in the film and what kind of chemistry did you and Cook have?

Jessica Alba: Well, the role of physical comedy in the movie was why I wanted to do it in the first place. To me, that's my favorite comedy.

When you embody the character completely and you get to express it in every way, not just in setting up jokes and little facial expressions that you're having to go into more than that, it's just the best.

Chevy Chase, Steve Martin, all the best, that's what they do.

And usually for women, especially in comedies and romantic comedies and things like that, we're just meant to look cute, wear pretty dresses and smile a lot.

So this is refreshing because I got all of the laughs in the script and it was a nice role reversal.

It seems like you've established yourself as someone who doesn't have to struggle to get famous anymore. What kind of challenges do you think that brings to you?

Just trying to stay sane in all of it and not think that any of it really matters. I'm no different than I've ever been. I still have to keep my passion for what I do for a living regardless of the success or perceived success that you have. I always do things that challenge me and that interest me and inspire me. And I think if I was doing the same thing over and over again I would just ... it would be boring. I wouldn't want to do this anymore and I'd figure out something else.

Are you looking to take more serious roles?

Oh, darling, I'm always willing to take more serious roles. There's just not a whole lot out there that's written well for women. That's kind of what all actors complain about. There's just not that many good scripts.

And usually, the really good scripts, people are too afraid to finance them because they don't think that audiences will want to see it, even though it can be the most amazing role. So I'm always and forever looking for great scripts and great

roles.

Did Dane Cook do anything weird off set?

Dane did the funniest thing. I wake up in the morning and after we hang out all night, and he made me all this food and he started eating the food as he was presenting it to me. And it was bacon, eggs, pastries, fruit, cookies, everything you can imag-

ine of food in mind was on the bed and he just started eating it like an animal out of nowhere. It was just so random.

lsmucker@chroniclemail.com



Jessica Alba said she wishes there were more serious film roles written for women.

Courtesy SERGEI BACHLAKOV

Emile Hirsch
Marcia Gay Harden
William Hurt
Jena Malone
Catherine Keener
Brian Dierker
Vince Vaughn
Zach Galifianakis
Kristen Stewart
and Hal Holbrook

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IN THEATRES FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH!

Martha Stewart's signature style attracts new customers

Stewart's lines permeate the whole house—and there's more where that came from

by Cindy Hoedel

Omnimedia, indeed. A better name for Martha Stewart's company might be "Omnipresent" or "Universal."

At age 66, Stewart is ratcheting up her public profile and expanding the reach of her company into the lives of 21st-century Americans.

Her daily TV show, "Martha," started a new season this month.

In August and September, her face graced the covers of *Wired*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Martha Stewart Living* and *Martha Stewart Holiday*.

The flurry of publicity coincides with the Sept. 15 debut of the Martha Stewart Collection for Macy's—the largest brand launch in company history. That 2,008-item line is part of a blitz of new home-related products designed by Stewart.

In June, New York-based lighting giant Murray Feiss introduced Martha Stewart Lighting, a collection of table and floor lamps. Hard-

wired fixtures and chandeliers will soon follow.

In May, Michaels launched a new line of Martha Stewart Crafts.

In April, Lowe's launched Martha Stewart Colors, a line of 350 paint hues.

A year and a half ago, national homebuilder KB Homes launched a line of Martha Stewart Homes that incorporate design elements from Stewart's own houses.

Coming next year: groceries. Costco has announced a line of fresh, refrigerated and frozen food that will be co-branded with Kirkland and Martha Stewart on



Martha Stewart has become not only a household name, but an icon in the design industry.

MCT

the labels.

Consumer trend forecaster

Susan Yashinsky of Sphere Trending, based in Waterford, Mich., said Martha Stewart is an example of how Americans' attitudes about celebrity are shifting.

"We're still celebrity-obsessed, but what we're seeing is a move toward more authentic celebrities, not the Paris Hiltons who haven't done anything," Yashinsky said. "Martha does do all this. She's been a cook and a gardener and a crafter for her whole life. We think she is very authentic and that is why she is successful."

To companies she partners with, Stewart offers more than just household-name status.

"Designing quality into the product is very much a Martha Stewart thing. It can't just look good, it has to work well," said Andrea Greene, vice president of creative development for Murray Feiss.

Martha's signature style and color palette also give companies an opportunity to attract new customers.

"We consider her the softer side of Murray Feiss. She brings a feminine touch, but a strong one. Nothing girly-girlie," Greene said. "Her celadon greens and aquas—we never had that before. She brought those colors."

Natalie Simon and John Shivers of Mission, Kan., were recently checking out the Martha Stewart Collection at Macy's. The engaged couple is registered at the store.

"It really looks nice. It's kind of clean looking and simple in a good way. Not complicated at all."

Simon said she thought the Stewart products were about the same price as other brands but of higher quality in some cases.

Meghann McDonald of Blue Springs, Mo., has seen ads for the new Martha Stewart Collection at Macy's. She hasn't seen the products in person yet but said she would make a point of checking them out if she were in need of household items.

"With Martha, you know it's going to be classic, clean, simple and timeless," McDonald said. "If you're shopping with your fiancé or husband, he's not going to say 'What?' It's something everyone can agree on. It's pretty universal."

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Jimmy John

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#8 BILLY CLUB®

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#9 ITALIAN NIGHT CLUB®

Real genoa salami, Italian capicola, smoked ham, and provolone cheese all topped with lettuce, tomato, onion, mayo, and our homemade Italian vinaigrette. (You hav' ta order hot peppers, just ask!)

#10 HUNTER'S CLUB®

A full 1 1/4 pound of fresh sliced medium rare roast beef, provolone, lettuce, tomato, & mayo.

#11 COUNTRY CLUB®

Fresh sliced turkey breast, applewood smoked ham, provolone, and tons of lettuce, tomato, and mayo! (A very traditional, yet always exceptional classic!)

#12 BEACH CLUB®

Fresh baked turkey breast, provolone cheese, avocado spread, sliced cucumber, sprouts, lettuce, tomato, and mayo! (It's the real deal, and it ain't even California.)

#13 GOURMET VEGGIE CLUB®

Double provolone, real avocado spread, sliced cucumber, alfalfa sprouts, lettuce, tomato, & mayo. (Try it on my 7-grain whole wheat bread. This veggie sandwich is world class!)

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New store from American Eagle caters to college-age shoppers

by Joan Verdon

TEEN APPAREL chain American Eagle Outfitters Inc. has a strategy for tapping into the lucrative lingerie market—create a clothing category called “dormwear” and build a store around it.

American Eagle named the new concept Aerie—spelled all lowercase on signs, ads and shopping bags—and opened the first store a year ago in Greenville, S.C. The company is moving rapidly to build the brand. It opened its 15th Aerie store this week at Westfield Garden State Plaza in Paramus, N.J., and it plans to have 40 stores nationwide by the end of this year.

With Aerie, American Eagle is taking a different approach to the lingerie market. It is creating a store that combines casual clothing and sleepwear with bras and undergarments, rather than going the route of rivals such as Victoria's Secret or Gap Body and

creating a lingerie-only shop.

“I think it's a brilliant, distinctive presentation,” said Candace Corlett, a partner in WSL Strategic Retail, a consulting firm based in Manhattan. She praised American Eagle executives for not just opening another lingerie store. “Why go head to head when you can do an end-run? There isn't anyone out there that has a focus on this new category of dormwear. They've created a new retail niche.”

Victoria's Secret recently has branched into dormwear as well, with its Pink brand of sweatpants, sweatshirts and pajamas, but bras and thongs still have center stage in their stores. American Eagle executives say the look Aerie is trying for is “sweetly sexy,” rather than the more blatant sex appeal of the competition.

Dormwear was inspired by female college students who about 10 years ago



American Eagle's new store, Aerie, plans to open in 40 locations nationwide by the year's end.

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A selection of the new clothing category, “dormwear,” from American Eagle Outfitters.

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began wearing flannel pajama bottoms and sweatpants to class. The category now includes items such as leggings, camisoles and baby-doll nightgowns worn with shorts or pants as long tops. Prices range from \$5 underwear to \$15 T-shirts and \$29 pajama pants and hooded sweatshirts.

The intimate apparel and sleepwear market for women and girls ages 13 to 24 is expanding. Sales increased 7.8 percent in 2005 and 9 percent in 2006, topping \$4 billion last year, according to market research firm The NPD Group.

“We actually have been selling underwear and some dormwear in our stores for some years now, but we've never broken it out this far,” Carmen Blanco, East Zone vice president for American Eagle, said on Sept. 20 as she helped open the Paramus store.

Aerie's merchandise is designed to appeal to “Katie”—the prototypical customer American Eagle executives created to define the store.

“She's 15 to 25 years old. She's a high school or college student and enjoys her friends. She has hobbies and enjoys sports. She's an active, fun-loving girl,” Blanco said.

Nina Gallo of Wyckoff, N.J., one of the first shoppers in the Paramus store, predicted the new concept would be a hit with her granddaughters and other young women.

“The merchandise is well put together, and it looks comfy,” she said. “And,” added her sister-in-law, Fran DeVita of Wyckoff, “it's all within the girls' price range.”

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Jeffrey Lyons, NBC's Reel Talk

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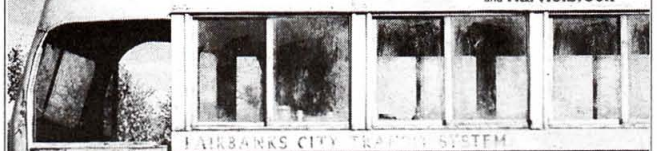
Rex Reed, The New York Observer

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Get smart: No pressure dating for professionals



A group of eight busy singles take time out of their hectic schedules to meet up for a dinner date as a way to get to meet other professionals. What comes of it, only they know.

by Brett Marlow
Assistant A&E Editor

BEFORE MEETING the "woman of his dreams," 48-year-old Steve Pokrak was set up on a date by one of his friends. Upon arrival, the woman began the conversation with, "You know what it's like when you take your whole paycheck and blow it all on coke?" Well, he didn't.

He tried matchmaking services and thought about online dating, but the last date convinced him his future dates needed some screening.

He was dared into trying a no-pressure dating company called It's Just Lunch.

A company employee sits down with its prospective clients and gets to know them by interviewing them about their past relationships, hobbies, interests and other qualities. Then they set up a time for the matches to meet in a laid-back atmosphere.

Pokrak, who said he doesn't have much free time when he gets home from his job at a bank, thought the concept was great. He has been a member for several years and after 40 dates finally found 45-year-old Lauren Watson, who is a creative director at an advertising agency.

The couple, together now for more than two years, has tried out for the "Amazing Race" and has their third trip to Hawaii in the works.

Watson, who discovered the company through a woman in her pilates class who worked for It's Just Lunch, met Pokrak on her sixth date with what the couple have now abbreviate as: "I.J.L." For them it was more than just lunch.

Dating services and matchmaking companies have lifted the weight off busy working professionals' shoulders by doing the grunt work of finding a date for them.

Companies like Chicago-based It's Just Lunch offer their services in more than 100

offices across the country and abroad.

"We work almost like a head hunter," said P.J. Osgood, director of the Chicago branch of It's Just Lunch, which started in 1992.

The company acts as an assistant to its members, typically professionals who truly value their time, Osgood said.

After getting to know a potential client, if Osgood feels like she has a good match for them, they're called within 24 hours with the person's details.

The service is not free. Members pay \$1,800 for annual memberships that guarantee them at least 12 dates. The fee is higher than online dating sites because the company does the matching by hand, Osgood said.

For Watson, Pokrak is worth more than \$1,800 any day, she said.

The whole approach beyond matchmaking is to offer members a no-pressure experience for them to go on casual dates after work for drinks or dinner.

"We set everything up," Osgood said. "The time, the place and the reservation. All they have to do is dress and show up."

It's convenient for people whose schedules are loaded. Members pay for the food and drinks.

"Steve and I both have very limited free time," Watson said.

It's Just Lunch isn't alone in this outsourcing endeavor. Eight at Eight is a company, founded in 1998, that conducts a similar process, but adds efficiency by allowing members to meet more than one person, and no pressure dating to its services as well by pairing four men and four women who are compatible for an 8 o'clock dinner.

The company offers at least one dinner per week, but members go to those that they've been matched for and can work into their schedules.

In a similar process, potential clients fill out applications at 8at8.com and are inter-

viewed about their wants, desires and interests, said Sarah Kathryn Smith, founder of Eight at Eight.

Members pay \$500 for an annual membership.

People are grouped based on age, educational background, profession, hobbies and interests, Smith said. The staff works to make sure each dinner is a proper pairing of compatible people.

Smith said the company also uses software to ensure people are not seated with people they've met before. When it's time for the company to match the tables, the matchmaking staff make sure everyone going has similar interests, Smith said.

"It's never the same group," Smith said. "We always guarantee you'll never bump into the same people. It's a very laid back way to meet new people."

An Eight at Eight hostess meets the selected group of eight at a restaurant, buys them a round of drinks to "break the ice," Smith said, and then leaves them to get to know one another. With both services, the membership fee is for the service and does not include the price of their meals and drinks.

Eight at Eight, open in several cities across the U.S., but biggest in Chicago, is responsible for more than 100 marriages. Often people use their services to meet new people because they're either new to the city, recently single or work in a field where their co-workers are of the same sex, Smith said.

"[We're] an alternative to the bar scene," Smith said. "When you get into your late 20s and 30s, you're sort of sick of it and [this] is a more efficient way."

Smith said they usually see at least one connection happen at each event. Members are responsible for making the move and asking for each other's phone numbers if they're interested.

It's Just Lunch allow its members to freeze their account up to a year if they found someone, but in case it doesn't work out, they can come back for seconds.

Smith said she often has seen members drop off the radar for a bit and then come back. Smith said that happens too with their members.

The companies only offer their services to match up men and women, although Smith said Eight at Eight is exploring the idea of opening up a service called Gay at Eight. But low pressure, laid-back dating isn't only

something that's offline, so to speak.

Itsjustcoffee.com has the same attitude when it comes to dating online but allows its members to choose through profiles who they want to talk to.

Members don't necessarily have to meet for coffee if they've found someone they're interested in, said Matt Bishop, the site's creator.

"The phrase is meant to just put the idea in the user's mind that it's just coffee, it's no big deal. It could be anything: Patron shots or green tea," Bishop said.

Bishop's aim was to emphasize that there was no pressure when meeting someone online, it doesn't necessarily have to be a date. Bishop's site doesn't target the usual crowd, nor does he want it to.

The site's slogan is "Date nerds" and Bishop said that was intentional. "It attracts nerds, it attracts brainiacs and a lot of artists," Bishop said. "What I want is to attract people who are comfortable enough with their own unique quirks and are not trying to be something they are not."

Bishop said he feels as though other matchmaking sites are meat markets where guys have their shirts off and are looking to hook up, he said.

On It's Just Coffee, there's none of that.

Bishop, who openly discloses when members join for free, said he reserves the right to "discriminate."

"If you're looking for a meat market website or are married and looking for a fling, try some other sites," Bishop said. "I'm saying no, not everyone is welcome."

Watson avoided online dating websites for that reason.

Although Bishop is offering a different online approach to meeting people in a no pressure way, he said he supports matchmaking companies like It's Just Lunch and Eight at Eight's efforts. Bishop said he sees about 10 connections happen a month.

With whatever happens, Osgood said to have an open mind.

"Every time it's worth a second date, because you never know," she said. "So many people end up together when on their first date they weren't quite sure. But what do you have to lose? Nothing but your single life."

For more information, visit www.eightateight.com or www.itsjustlunch.com.

bmarlow@chroniclemail.com



Two singles get to know each other over dinner after meeting through an online dating website.

REVIEWS



SIIIIIIICK



SHOULDER SHRUG



NOT BAD, NOT BAD

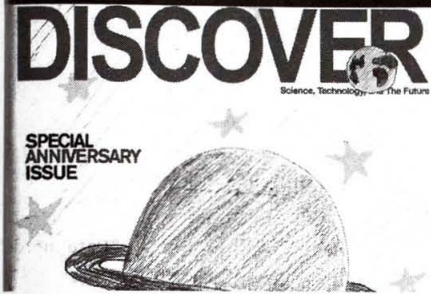


WORTH A GIGGLE



HAPPY DANCE!

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ANNIVERSARY ISSUE OF DISCOVER, OCT. 2007

Burt Rutan, revolutionary spacecraft designer, reveals his plan for suborbital tourism by 2009 for \$200,000 per person; 200 people have already purchased tickets. FYI courtesy of Discover: The early morning hours of Oct. 21 is the best time to behold the Orionids Meteor Shower. —B. Palmer



'\$500 ROOM MAKEOVERS' BY LISA QUINN

What the momma? This book is ridiculously awesome. My room is ugly, and these beautiful apartments make it look even uglier, but I've never felt so inspired before to redecorate. Also, this book is for poor people, and I'm into that. —C. Mahlmeister



RE-READING CLASSIC NOVELS

There's one benefit to commuting: you have an excessive amount of time each day to read the classics you never read in the first place, and re-read those that you had only read the SparkNotes version. Here's to a greater appreciation for *The Great Gatsby*, *Catch-22* and *Atlas Shrugged*. —A. Maurer

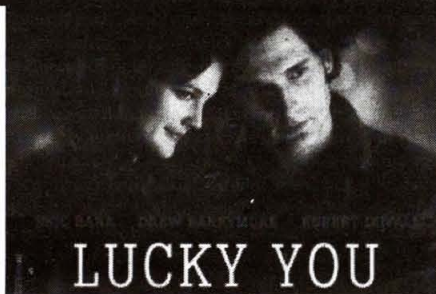
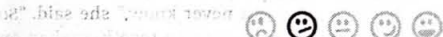


MOVIES / DVD



DRAGONBALL Z.—THE COMPLETE 3RD SEASON

I don't understand how I watched this series endlessly as a child. Dragonball Z's premise is great, with cool fight sequences, but they drag on forever and it's the same recycled conflicts. After seeing Frieza and Goku duke it out for more than 20 episodes; this Super Saiyan just wants to sleep. —D. Kucynda



'LUCKY YOU'

If you've seen the trailer, you've seen all the interesting parts of this film. The acting is good, but the plot ... ugh. It seemed like a good date movie, but the romance is over in 20 minutes, followed by 100 minutes of poker. Avid poker fans will enjoy—their wives and girlfriends will not. —S. Harvey



'2 DAYS IN PARIS'

Julie Delpy is one of the more underused and underappreciated actresses around, and this film is a showcase of reasons why. She's lovely, truthful, hopeful and a little melancholy. The film follows a couple during the titular two days, trying to decide how long they can stay together. An outstanding debut. —W. Giglio

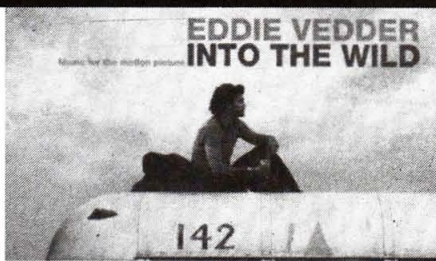


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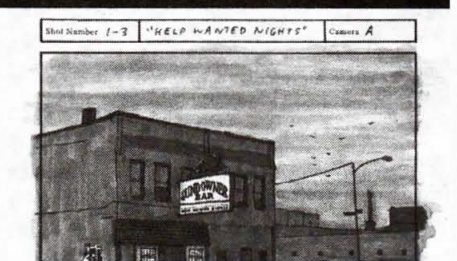
KANYE WEST: 'GRADUATION'

Kanye's new album combines the '80s-esque "So-Me" style with today's hunger for innovative beats. He might be lacking the lyrics, but he's still creating amazing singles. Yes, he's still using samples, but that shouldn't stop you from buying this amazing album. —P. Algrim



EDDIE VEDDER: 'MUSIC FOR THE MOTION PICTURE INTO THE WILD'

When I first saw this movie, I thought Eddie's voice lent itself very well to the feel of the film. Don't listen to this expecting a Pearl Jam album, this is the equivalent of Vedder sitting in front of a camp fire with his acoustic guitar. —L. Smucker



THE GOOD LIFE: 'HELP WANTED NIGHTS'

I can't get lost into this album as easily as I could in *Album of the Year*, their 2004 examination of a one year relationship, but even though there's not a song on par with *Inmates* on this album, there's still an abundance of love and despair to enjoy. —R. Bykowski



RANDOM



PANERA'S PARISIAN CHICKEN SOUP

Finally Panera releases a soup with some substance! Chunks of potatoes, mushrooms, carrots, and yes, even a good deal of chicken, form a soup that reminds me of a mass produced coq au vin. It's a nice addition to Panera's soup list, and definitely worth a try. —A. Maurer



'LUCY, THE DAUGHTER OF THE DEVIL'

The show aired its first episode on [Adult Swim] on Sept. 9. This series revolves around Satan's 21-year-old cynical daughter, who is dating the Second Coming threat, DJ Jesus (he doubles as a magician). It's hilarious to watch Lucy's dad, with his grandpa sweaters, meddle in his daughter's life. —S. Harvey



GORILLAZ

Yeah, it's been forever since those two perfect albums came out, but I'll tell you this: that dance/brit/hip-hop/rock/hybrid is as fantastic today as it was the day it came out. Damon Albarn and The Hewl continue on other projects, but they'll always be Murdoc and 2D to me. —S. Baltrukonis



Premium Blend

with Mos' Scocious

WITH SO many bands trying to cash in on the current pop-punk trend, it's nice to know there are still bands out there trying to breathe new life into classic genres like funk.

One of these bands is Mos' Scocious. According to bass player Josh Rosen, these four guys, including Robert Dicke on drums, Bradley Butterworth on guitar and Yoni Downs on guitar, made mastering their instruments and putting on a good live show their goal, whether that be an impromptu groove at a friend's house, or a full-out jam on stage.

What truly separates this band from many other local bands is their approachability and humility toward their fans, Rosen said. They are always willing to chat with fans about everything from music to beer after a performance. At their shows, the band never gives off the impression that they are above anyone else, said Rosen. They are simply four guys who enjoy playing together and performing for people.

While they don't collectively have a full-length album, many of the individual members, such as Rosen, have MySpace webpages that feature recorded tracks for fans and web surfers looking for something new.

The Chronicle recently talked with Rosen about the band and their music.

The Chronicle: How long have you been

playing music?

Josh Rosen: Collectively, we've got about 50 years of experience under our belts.

What inspired you to start Mos' Scocious?

We started Mos' Scocious because we all love to play music. We love bringing people together through music. We formed to attempt to make music for music's sake, something that you don't see a lot of anymore.

How has being a jazz major at Columbia influenced your music?

It definitely broadens your horizon and helps you hear music from different perspectives.

What bands influence your music?

Bands like The Meters, Tower of Power and Herbie Hancock were all inspirations for us and our sound.

With so many people downloading music for free, is it discouraging to hope to sell tons of records?

If we sell a lot of records some day that will be great, but it's important to us that people hear our music, no matter how they hear it.

Were you ever afraid to play for an audience?

Usually we stay pretty relaxed and that keeps our heads and the music really focused.



Mos' Scocious members are always up for a good time with their fans. Members from left: Josh Rosen, Yoni Downs, Bradley Butterworth and Robert Dicke.

Courtesy MOS' SCOCIOUS

What separates you from other bands in your genre?

What sets us apart from other bands is the fact that we're not other bands. Each of us brings something unique to the table to create a result that no four other guys could ever reach.

Are there any styles of music that you're into that might surprise your fans?

The Muppets Christmas Carol soundtrack.

Have you ever played a show or had an experience with your band that brought everyone closer together?

The first time all four of us played together, we had no plan and barely knew each

other. That experience was a crash course in becoming closer.

If you could play any other instrument in your band, what would it be?

I'm satisfied with playing the bass. All of us lock into our instruments really well.

Mos' Scocious performs at Gallery Cabaret, 2020 N. Oakley Ave., on Nov. 9 at 9:30 p.m. The Gallery Cabaret is two blocks from the Western Blue Line stop. For more information call 773-489-5471.

—L. Smucker

HOROSCOPES



ARIES (March 21-April 19) Make the connections and choices required, but none of the other ones. There'll be new developments in the next few days. Leave many of your options open.



TAURUS (April 21-May 20) Your energy level is low, but that's nothing to be concerned about. When you figure out what you're doing, you'll spring into action.



GEMINI (May 21-June 21) Obligations interfere with sweet indulgences, for now. Be responsible and you'll be able to go out on a lark again, soon.



CANCER (June 22-July 22) Odds are good you're not in the mood to work. You'd rather take a cruise to some distant romantic island. Remember? This is why you work.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You have a special aptitude for numbers now. Use this to get your financial affairs into order. Keep in mind the goal you've just set.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You're making a good impression and you're doing the job well. Now it's time for you to start giving the job away.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) There will be work involved. You won't be able to delegate everything. You may get your hands dirty. But, what the heck. The results will be worth it.



SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) This is an excellent day for snuggling, if you can find the time. Make a shopping list of things you'd like to buy for each other.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Others increasingly seek your counsel and advice. Don't let them pester you mercilessly; defend your private space. Hang out there tonight, with a slightly irregular relative.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) Treat yourself to a tool that will make your life easier. Then, allow your curiosity to lead you down a new rabbit hole. Make sure the job's finished, first.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) Say what's on your mind to a loved one who's asking for a commitment. The discussion that follows will be lively, but you can reach a compromise. Do this earlier rather than later.



PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) You're learning a lot, but you don't need to try to teach anybody yet. The concepts you're feeling are way beyond words anyway. Try music or color.

CHECK ME OUT



LEILANI DIAZ

ART AND DESIGN
SENIOR

Senior art and design major Leilani Diaz stood outside the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., in her favorite 2-year-old canvas boots that have earned their own battle scars. She sported a black graphic tank she scored at Marshalls for just \$2 and an old vintage button skirt that Diaz said has a handy pocket for her little things like her U-Pass.

For Diaz, leggings are a must each day and an article of black clothing is pivotal to her outfit. On a budget, she enjoys shopping at resale shops like Buffalo Exchange, Village Discount, Jive Monkey and Land of the Lost. She also checks eBay for vintage classic dresses.

When picking out an outfit in the morning, Diaz said, "It has to be comfortable and [not] make me look fat."

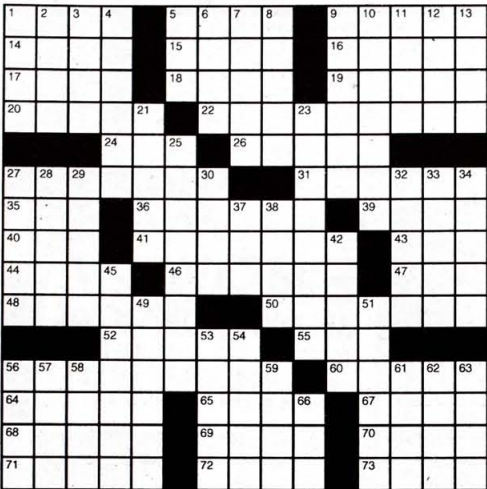
—B. Marlow

Rachael Strecher THE CHRONICLE

Crossword

Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 If all ___ fails...
 - 5 Harvest
 - 9 Uneven haircuts
 - 14 Ghostly greetings
 - 15 Lovett or Talbot
 - 16 ___ cotta
 - 17 Boxing match
 - 18 Collectors' groups
 - 19 Walt Disney's middle name
 - 20 Sound of a wet impact
 - 22 Van Heffin film, "Heroes"
 - 24 "Shop ___ You Drop"
 - 26 Juliet's lover
 - 27 Store of weapons
 - 31 Springs
 - 35 Snake-like scarf
 - 36 Modern lute
 - 39 Screwdriver, e.g.
 - 40 Tempe sch.
 - 41 Makes possible
 - 43 John's Yoko
 - 44 Immoral deeds
 - 46 Baby's berth
 - 47 Gullible person
 - 48 Soundness
 - 50 Stone and Hardy
 - 52 Vicinities
 - 55 Gasteyer of "SNL"
 - 56 Courses of action
 - 60 Put in office
 - 64 Sri ___
 - 65 Bump off
 - 67 Reverberation
 - 68 Followed a trajectory
 - 69 Austen novel
 - 70 Brit's streetcar
 - 71 Second decade
 - 72 Assigned work
 - 73 Phoenix five
- DOWN
- 1 Flows back
 - 2 Aerobic stunt
 - 3 "Heart and ___"
 - 4 Will's contents
 - 5 "Kidnapped" auth.
 - 6 Looks at
 - 7 Holy table
 - 8 Basil
 - 9 Sound setup
 - 10 Didn't yield
 - 11 La Scala
 - 12 Go-with-anything color
 - 13 Give lip to
 - 21 Barest hint
 - 23 Bumbershoot
 - 25 Liftoffs
 - 27 Put to shame
 - 28 Comic O'Donnell
 - 29 Dry-heat bath
 - 30 False witness
 - 32 Hangman's knot
 - 33 Germanic god
 - 34 Pig's dinner
 - 37 TV guide abbr.
 - 38 Ray of "Battle Cry"
 - 42 River of Rouen
 - 45 Slow down
 - 49 Tramples
 - 51 Gentlemen's gentlemen
 - 53 Valuable quality
 - 54 Diamond of "Night Court"
 - 56 ___ du jour
 - 57 Not common
 - 58 Back then
 - 59 Houston and Huff
 - 61 Hosiery shade
 - 62 Detective Charlie
 - 63 Male cats
 - 66 Tibetan beast



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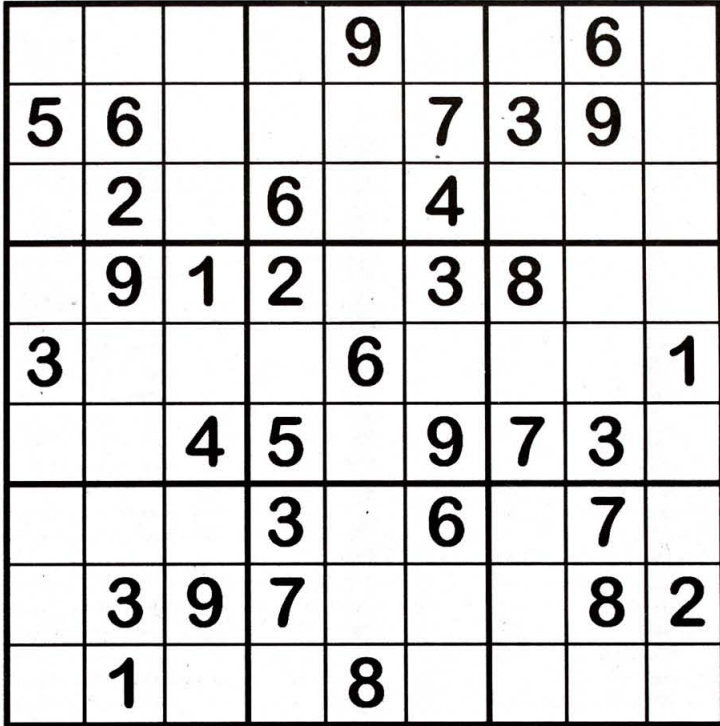
9/24/07

Solutions



Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.



Joke of the week

Q: What's a horny pirate's worst nightmare?

A: A sunken chest with no booty.

Comic Relief

subfoam CRACKERS

by Akeem Laranson email: hillmeipp@yahoo.com



Commentary

Editorials

It's the Constitution, stupid

Fill in the blanks:
"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish _____, ensure domestic _____, provide for the common _____, promote the general _____, and secure the Blessings of _____ to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this _____ for the United States of America."

If the above quotation is a mystery, the rest of America is similarly in the dark. Far too many Americans have no idea what to write in those blanks, even though every citizen should immediately recognize the preamble to the Constitution.

In 2004, the federal government declared Sept. 17 Constitution Day, and signed into law a requirement that every public elementary, middle and high school celebrates with appropriate educational festivities. Since then many schools have taken steps to raise awareness about the most important document in our national history. Some students are given copies of the hallowed writing, while others memorize the preamble. Children dress in period costume and recite amendments to the class. Older students can propose and debate new amendments and teachers can organize civics lessons around the process of ratification.

But according to the Tribune many schools, including a large number of Chicago public schools, have merely given lip service to the new law, or flatly ignored it.

The schools can ignore Constitution Day because there's no penalty if they don't. The 2004 law named no penalty for non-compliant schools, as well as no reward for participants.

This has to change. There are certain government requirements that schools can ignore with good reason. Some schools have elected to absorb financial penalties rather than allow army recruiters on to their campuses, and others have attempted to buck the more impractical tenets of the No Child Left Behind Act. These are politically defensible actions, but ignoring Constitution Day is not. The law needs to include a penalty for schools that choose not to participate in the new national day.

A recent study conducted by Intercollegiate Studies Institute asked students of various universities to take a civics test. The results from every school, including Harvard University, Duke University and Yale University, were failing grades. The average score for a college freshman on the multiple choice test was 50.4 percent, up only 30 percent from what the average kindergartener scored by guessing. This means that the best and brightest are learning very little about civics in primary and high school—and Constitution Day can be a force to combat appalling ignorance.

There is no reason an American public school should ignore Constitution Day. Some teachers and administrators have expressed concern that such a day would interfere with their scheduled learning process. But anyone with doubts about the value of a day dedicated to better understanding the Constitution should ask themselves a few questions: Can you fill in those blanks at the top of the page? Can you name the three branches of government? Do you know the content of the Bill of Rights? Are you smarter than a fifth grader?



Joke, firing inappropriate

The Audio Arts and Acoustics Department at Columbia has been put under the microscope recently, as a lawsuit was filed against the college on Sept. 10 by a staff member who had been fired over the summer.

Reid Hyams was facilities director for the Audio Arts and Acoustic Department, and had been a member of the Columbia staff for many years, first from 1983 to 1991, and then from July 2006 to June 2007, when he was fired. Hyams has written a music textbook, hosted classes for years at his Chicago Trax Recording studio and is a graduate of the college.

The complaint submitted to the Cook County Circuit Court describes his department in disarray. Hyams claims another faculty member within the department, Jack Alexander, was "not collegial" and had a "negative demeanor," recounting past incidents in which the two had been at each others' throats.

The suit goes on to assert that Alexander had been feuding with a secretary, and eventually asked that he be given Hyams' office because it was furthest away from the secretary's. This resulted in Hyams' being asked to vacate his office and move to the basement of the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building.

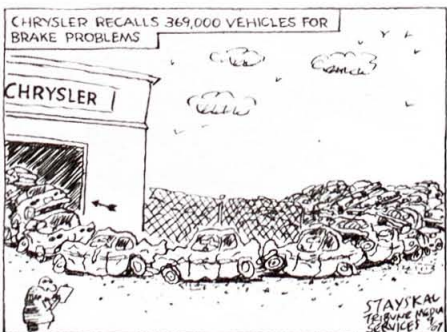
This led to Hyams jokingly placing a Post it note on Alexander's office door, which has been reported as saying "Jack sucks donkey c---." Hyams claims the characterization of the incident is misleading and "materially false," though Hyams does not dispute the existence of a derogatory note. The matter was soon brought before the chair of the Department, Doug Jones. At this meeting Hyams was officially reprimanded, and according to court documents, Hyams considered this to be an appropriate response and thought the incident was resolved. However, Hyams was fired on June 25, 2007.

Columbia's faculty handbook includes a section on professional standards of conduct and ethics that is rather vague. The section makes it clear that any criminal activity or "serious" ethical misconduct can result in termination.

A handwritten phrase on a Post-it note stuck briefly to a colleague's door handle is hardly a "serious breach of ethics," Columbia's written standard for even the possibility of termination. The Chronicle reported that over the summer the Illinois Department of Employment Security decided the firing was baseless and unfair, and the court documents characterize the note as a "practical joke."

This kind of incident could easily have been handled quietly, within the department. Size restrictions and inter-office skirmishing produced an inappropriate response, but the school's decision to terminate Mr. Hyams' employment was just as inappropriate and far more damaging.

Hyams has said reinstatement to the staff would be an acceptable end to the civil suit he's bringing against the college. This would be more than fair—Hyams' actions were immature, but they were harmless. He was fired because of a single facetious note which speaks much more to the management of the Audio Arts and Acoustics Department than it does the seriousness of the offense, that can't be rationally qualified as a serious breach of ethics. Columbia has seriously mismanaged this episode, and in the process has trampled the rights of a valued employee.

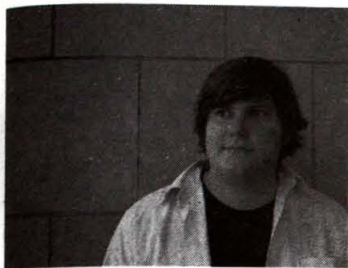


Have an opinion about something you read in this newspaper?
Did you catch a mistake, think we could have covered a story better or believe strongly about an issue that faces all of us here at Columbia?

Why not write a letter to the editor? At the bottom of Page 2 you'll find a set of guidelines on how to do this. Let us hear from you.

—The Columbia Chronicle Editorial Board

Onward and upward: science conquers the gene pool



by Wes Giglio
Commentary Editor

Throughout human history, death and disease have been two of the prime motivators of civilization. Disease has caused massive human migration and the partial eradication of whole nations and tribes. Art and storytelling grows out of religion, which grows from our fear of death and our curiosity about what's behind the door. Medicine, doctors, hospitals and nurses are all eventually doomed attempts to keep us from dying.

So perhaps it's only natural there is a growing practice among fertility clinics called pre-implantation genetic diagnosis (PGD), yet another in a long line of our increasingly successful attempts to stay alive. Prospective parents submit sperm and eggs to fertility centers, which are combined in a laboratory to create embryos. That's where the pre-implantation process used to end, but now some specialists can go one more step.

With new technology and doctors' ever-increasing understanding of genetics, specialists can now examine these embryos and identify certain genetic markers. For parents undergoing this procedure, doctors

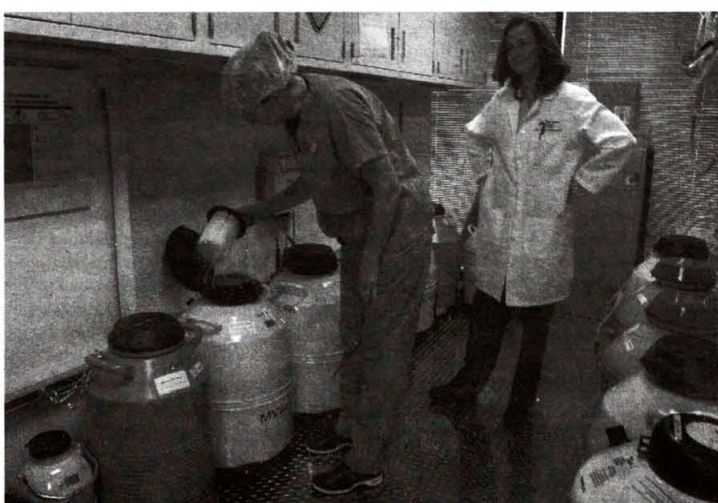
can now tell if a certain embryo is likely to develop conditions like Down syndrome. They can search for genetic markers that indicate ovarian cancer, leukemia, cystic fibrosis, breast cancer and hemophilia. There are more than 4,000 genetic markers doctors can identify in the human embryo, many of them harbingers of disease or a mental handicap.

Now for the first time in history, at a cost of about \$10,000, parents can choose to eliminate the propensity for those diseases from their gene pool by discarding embryos that contain negative genetic traits. Human beings can now control the means of genetic production—we have tamed natural selection. We're the new bourgeoisie of the universe. When these PGD babies grow up and have their own children, their issue will in turn be half as likely to inherit negative genetic markers. The trickle down effect could be profound, with the human race systematically disarming the threat of genetic disease.

Science has the brains, people have the money; Let's go make some super babies.

Like a lot of new technology, and like all genetic research, PGD has engendered its fair share of controversy. The embryos that don't pass the muster of parents are eliminated from the process of In Vitro Fertilization, an action many consider to be immoral. Personally I think that argument is a bit hysterical—it can be argued the PGD has denied the possibility of embryonic development, but that's not the same as ending a developing life.

What's far more concerning is the extreme cost of PGD. Right now it's available to only the wealthiest people undergoing IVF, and for many that's discrimination. In the future, the poor and middle class could still be suffering from preventable



Doctors Kristen Ivani (left) and Mary Hinckley check a canister of frozen embryos in a San Francisco Bay Area reproductive facility.

MCT

cancers and genetic disorders while the rich not only get richer, they get healthier. In coming years PGD may become as common as vaccination, a procedure required for all American children. We face a political future that may be predicated on a woman's right to choose not only whether or not she will have a child, but how pre-disposed to disease that baby will be.

There is something else PGD can identify that may have even greater societal implication. PGD can identify which embryos will be male and female, and what color their eyes will be.

Here is where the science fiction story turns a little more sinister. This opens up the possibility of designer babies. It's possible that as PGD develops and becomes more sophisticated, wealthy couples could

choose embryos that guarantee sex, hair color, eye color, I.Q., height, etc. A future populated not only by test tube babies, but test tube babies of perfection that match the desires of parents like shoes or a purse. Couples could order custom children as casually as we order Chinese food.

Humanity has reached dizzying heights in almost no time at all, with most of the earth-shaking technological developments occurring within our collective memory. There has never been a more advanced, exciting and unpredictable time to be alive. Humans have conquered their own gene pool. Where will we go next?

jigiglio@chroniclemail.com

Do we really need these reunion tours?



by Luke Smucker
Assistant A&E Editor

On Sept. 12, I read Led Zeppelin was getting back together to do a reunion tour in the U.K. I am a huge fan and would give my life savings to see Led Zeppelin live, but this is not the same band that I would have seen if I had been around in the early '70s. As a person who has been listening to Led Zeppelin for more than a few years, I feel like I would be cheated out of the experience I could have had 30 years ago if I saw them today.

For whatever reason, they decided now is the time to do a reunion tour. While that's great for classic bands that miss the sound of a roaring crowd or life on the road, I also believe we can't expect these historic bands to be what they were in their prime today. Not only are the players getting older, but they are also unable to recreate the experience that made them a musical phenomenon in the past.

The bands in question include The Who, Black Sabbath, The Police, Genesis and Van Halen. I believe this trend of reunion tours

has been gaining momentum because of the recent popularity of The Police getting back together.

While I think there was great music made in the past, I also believe these bands, which, until now, have gone their separate ways, are not in the same physical or emotional state that they were in their glory days, so trying to recreate them for a new generation is a fraudulent effort.

I feel like a lot of the reunion tours that are going on today are a musical version of a mid-life crisis. A band that is way past its prime feels the need to prove themselves

once again on the road, to prove they can still go out and put on a good show.

These bands all had their time and they were amazing and should be respected for what they contributed to the music industry. But expecting them to recreate the essence that made them popular in their time is not fair to them, or their fans.

Robert Plant can no longer hit the range that he could in the '70s. Time has taken its toll on his physicality and his once skinny, sexual physique is now that of a naturally aged man with wrinkles on his face.

Another thing to take into consider

ation is that many of these bands broke up because members had ego problems or original members died. Even if a band can get a musician to fill in the spot of the original player, that still takes away from the chemistry of what made the band work. Going through the motions is not the same as having been on the road playing a song so many times they could play it backward in their sleep.

In their time, these bands were great but now it's time for these bands to pass the torch on to other deserving artists who have studied the way these bands made their music and are putting their own personal touch on it. There is still good music and good musicians left to be discovered if we only could take the spotlight off these bands of the past for a minute.

In an interview with Rolling Stone, Sting said the reason he brought The Police back together was because he wanted to give his fans something they would never expect.

What many people don't realize is that these reunion tours have less to do with the nostalgia of the live show or the band itself. They have more to do with the money that can be made off ticket sales in the wake of a dying music industry. In addition, it's because of music downloading, they are no longer getting the same amount of money from album sales that they used to. For this reason, I think we can expect to see bands that can no longer count on royalty checks from album sales to begin to go back on the road in hopes of making up their lost money in ticket sales.



In Nashville, Tenn., Robert Plant and Jimmy Page try to recreate their on-stage magic in 1998.

MCT

lsmucker@chroniclemail.com

Bats get a bad rap from a dangerous bite

Spike in rabid bats in Illinois has health officials and wildlife experts worried

by Don Babwin

STATE HEALTH officials and wildlife experts have no answer for a worrisome statistic: The number of rabies cases in Illinois this year is the highest on record.

So far, there have been 99 confirmed rabies cases—all among bats—almost double the previous high of 51, set in 2004 and 2005.

There have been no reported cases of human infections, although a handful of people who came in contact with bats have undergone rabies shots as a precaution. Officials are warning people not to touch bats and to

call authorities if they see bats lying on the ground or flying during the day.

"If you see a bat in the daytime, especially on the ground, that's a pretty solid indication they are diseased," said Vic Reato, spokesman for the Will County Health Department.

A bat found in a Joliet swimming pool earlier this month had rabies, state health officials confirmed Sept. 19.

They said the reasons for the spike are unclear.

"We don't really know at this time what

is causing the [higher] numbers," said Melanie Arnold, a spokeswoman for the Illinois Department of Public Health.

The percentage of bats that tested positive for rabies in Illinois has climbed to 9 percent this year, from the typical 3 percent to 5 percent, said state public health department veterinarian Connie Austin.

One possible explanation is that construction on previously undeveloped land has led to more people sharing land with wildlife, Reato said. That also might explain why most of the rabies cases have been in rapidly developing Cook, DuPage, Will, McHenry and Lake counties, he said.

A health department map shows that Cook County accounts for 25 cases, while counties such as Massac County at the southernmost tip of the state and Mercer County along the

Mississippi River each have reported just one rabid bat.

Reato also said there is a greater awareness about bats and rabies, which might have led to more reports.

One bat expert said she doesn't believe more bats have rabies, but that the numbers of reports have climbed simply because more bats are being tested.

"The percentage of bats getting rabies is about one half of one percent," said Barbara French, science officer for Bat Conservation



There have been 99 confirmed rabies cases in Illinois, the highest on record. Although no one has been infected, several who have come in contact with bats have undergone rabies shots.

AP

"They're not bad animals [and] in their domain they're great because they eat bugs, they eat mosquitoes. It's just that they don't mix with people."

—Vic Reato, Will County Health Department spokesman

International, an Austin, Texas-based non-profit organization that works to protect bats and bat habitats around the world. "The number [of bats with rabies] in the wild has remained the same for decades."

This year, bats have been the only animals to test positive for rabies, but experts say that is not unusual. Since 1996, bats have accounted for 97 percent of the animal rabies cases in Illinois, Reato said. But other animals, including skunks, foxes, dogs and cows—even a horse—have tested positive for the disease in past years, according to the health department's website.

Because bat bites are painful, most people who are bitten will know it. But a bat's teeth are extremely small, and a bite mark can be impossible to see, Austin said.

That means that if a bat gets into a room with a baby or someone who otherwise cannot communicate that they have been bitten, it is extremely important to capture a bat so it can be tested, she said.

If a bat escapes after biting someone—or possibly biting them—Austin recommends the person undergo the rabies prevention treatment that consists of a series of shots.

Reato said he hopes the reports do not cause people to panic. The last reported human rabies death in Illinois was in 1954.

"The sad part is bats get a bad rap," he said. "They're not bad animals [and] in their domain they're great because they eat bugs, they eat mosquitoes. It's just that they don't mix with people."

AP

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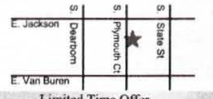
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» SEGREGATION:

Continued from Back Page

Segregated neighborhoods receive less funding for schools, expert says

not steered by realtors toward single-race neighborhoods, but are influenced by other factors.

"People choose areas on what they can afford," Jones said.

Breymaier said most people consider moving into an integrated neighborhood to be either risky or something to fear.

"[Whites] put in the [least] amount of effort toward integrating," Breymaier said. "They often don't integrate because their perception is, they don't need to or want to [move]."

White people are not the only groups who are reluctant to move to integrated

communities. Breymaier said minorities are afraid of facing harassment by neighbors or the police department if they are one of the first families to move into an all-white neighborhood.

Tyrone Foreman, associate professor of African American studies and sociology at the University of Illinois at Chicago, conducted a study in 2005 about housing preferences and said within the past 10 years, 8 percent of blacks and 15 percent of Latinos searched for homes in communities where their group is the majority, while 45 percent of whites looked into majority white communities.

Foreman said people who prefer to live in neighborhoods where their ethnic group is the majority causes residential segregation in Chicago, as opposed to steering.

In another study, Foreman surveyed only whites, blacks, Latinos, Asians and Arabs in Chicago. The racial groups were asked to choose which ethnic groups they would prefer to live by in their neighborhood.

The result of the study showed the average white chose to live in a community that had 56 percent of its neighbors white, blacks chose a 43 percent black community and Latinos chose neighborhoods that were 39 percent Latino.

"What we found in our studies was that this was only true of whites; they were

the only group who prefer that their racial group be the majority," Foreman said.

Leticia Corona, a Latino who lives in the predominantly Latino Chicago Lawn area, agreed. She said communities are segregated because ethnic groups choose to live within their own ethnicity.

"I think people choose to live where they feel comfortable," Corona said.

Foreman said as segregation continues, blacks and Latinos who live in segregated neighborhoods receive limited economic resources and schooling opportunities because schools are funded based on local residential property taxes.

Property taxes are higher in affluent white communities, therefore public schools have greater resources than other communities that have low property taxes, Foreman said.

Breymaier said as the white population abandons these communities, businesses abandon them as well.

"It creates a downward spiral," Brey-

maier said. "Then there is not enough money for the schools. There is not enough money for the streets."

He said the situation gets worse and leads to gentrification and displacement for low and moderate income minority residents.

"[Whites] put in the [least] amount of effort toward integrating. They often don't integrate because their perception is they don't need to or want to [move]."

—Rob Breymaier, executive director of the Oak Park Regional Housing Center

stabares@chroniclemail.com



Tyrone Foreman (left) and Myron Orfield spoke at a seminar on race, inequality and poverty at the University of Illinois at Chicago on Aug. 26., and addressed what leads communities toward segregation.

Tim Hunt THE CHRONICLE

» UNION:

Continued from Back Page

Richardson differentiated himself from other Democratic candidates by saying he has experience

Communications Director Richard Greer. Internal polling shows 80 percent of members want to see a Democratic president.

Attempting to differentiate himself from the other candidates, Richardson touted his extensive resume.

"I'm the only major Democratic candidate with a real record of executive experience," he said.

His political career is varied; he has been a New Mexico congressman, United States ambassador to the United Nations and secretary of the Department of Energy, according to RichardsonForPresident.com, his official campaign website.

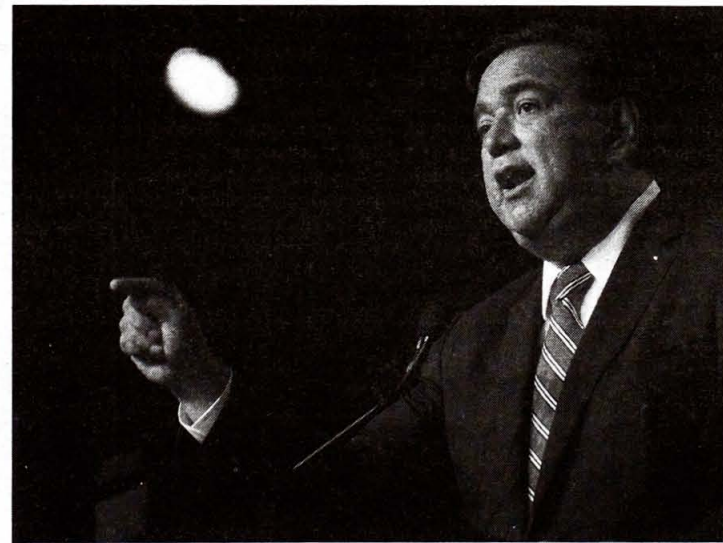
He also highlighted his support of unions. "You can't just wave the labor banner," he said, implying he is more devoted to America's workers than the other candidates.

Richardson said he's worked as a governor to make the unions prominent in his state and that would spill over into his presidential duties. He said his Secretary of Labor would be a union member and he would fight to keep jobs in the United States.

Richardson said President George W. Bush "washed his hands" of workers.

Richardson compared what he has done in New Mexico as governor to his plans for presidency.

"We made our state the clean energy state," Richardson said of New Mexico. "We're building a new economy powered



Democratic presidential candidate Bill Richardson speaks to union members at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers, 301 E. North Water St., on Sept. 18.

Andrew A. Nelles THE CHRONICLE

by renewable energy that produces high-quality jobs."

He also said he would "quadruple the energy tax credit for green jobs," which would benefit workers and the environment. The energy tax credits would make it attractive for businesses to use alternative energy sources, said Tom Reynolds, a spokesman for Richardson's campaign. Reynolds said the tax credits would lessen their tax payout.

Another issue he spoke about was health care.

"Health care expenses are out of control," Richardson said. Calling the current system "broken," Richardson explained his plan for

health care is divided into five parts.

According to his campaign website, the plan includes health care for everyone—but people can keep their old plans if they are satisfied, shared responsibility by forcing employers to contribute to the health care expenses and a sliding tax credit to help Americans who need health insurance. The plan also includes saving \$110 billion in savings from "streamlining" health care administration and concentrating on prevention, improving health care quality and using existing models to cover people who don't have insurance.

In addition, the plan includes a "hero card," which would allow veterans to get

care anywhere, not just at Veteran Affairs hospitals, Richardson said.

Similarly, Richardson addressed one of this election's hot button issues—the Iraq war. Richardson said all troops should be brought home.

"I deeply believe we can't move forward as a nation if we leave our troops behind," he said. "I believe we need to bring them all out of Iraq, no residual forces."

After getting the troops out, then rebuilding can begin, he said.

"Together we can end this tragic war and spend the \$450 billion that we have spent on this war on health care, education for our own [people]," he said.

The event is the annual LIUNA conference for union members and leaders, Greer said. The Democratic candidates were invited to "engage members in the process and issues," he said.

Some members of LIUNA who were at the conference were impacted by Richardson's speech.

Gale Jamison, a business manager for Laborers' Local 110, a branch of LIUNA in St. Louis, said he was impressed with Richardson's record of support for labor issues and Veterans Affairs.

But Jamison doesn't think any particular candidate stands out yet.

"[They] all have similar ideas to change the country," Jamison said.

Others, like Mike DeVergilio, a business manager for Local 1076, a branch of LIUNA in Pontiac, Mich., said Richardson would be a good vice president with John Edwards as president.

Senator Barack Obama was invited but had a scheduling conflict, Greer said.

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Consumer advocates push for cable options

Some say TV watchers would benefit from paying for only the channels they pick, but others disagree

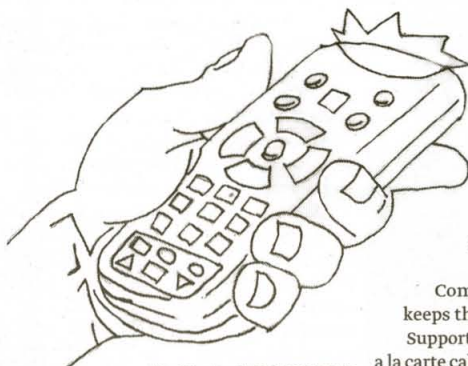
by Becky Schlikerman
Assistant City Beat Editor

IN RECENT years, consumer advocates have criticized the way cable is sold. They say consumers should be able to pick which channels they pay for, but others, some including cable providers, disagree, saying the current system benefits consumers.

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) chairman Kevin J. Martin said in a statement on Aug. 22 that consumers would have lower cable television bills if they were able to pick their channels a la carte, or one by one, rather than buying them in bundles or packages. His statement also said consumers would have more control over what type of programming comes into their homes. The FCC is the regulating agency of communication by radio, television, wire, satellite and cable communications.

According to Martin's statement, which was originally a letter response to minority groups, most consumers do not watch a large variety of channels. He also said minorities, like Spanish speakers, would benefit from a la carte cable because they could purchase channels in Spanish without having to pay for the channels they don't watch. Martin said most cable providers offer Spanish programming, at an additional cost, as part of a package.

Choice is the biggest issue affecting cable



Kimi Badger THE CHRONICLE

television consumers, said Joel Kelsey, grassroots organizer for Consumers Union, the nonprofit publisher of Consumer Reports, a magazine that tests and reviews products.

"The rigidity of cable's bundling practices of their channels doesn't give [consumers] much choice," he said.

Kelsey said consumers also end up "subsidizing" content they don't want, meaning people are paying and supporting channels they don't watch or agree with.

"That leads to bloated channels that aren't accountable to the needs and wants of the ... consumers who are buying cable," he said.

Kelsey said cable bundling saves cable and content providers money because they get to choose what gets "beamed" into the consumer's home instead of the

other way around.

Some cable consumers such as Rebecca Bunten, a senior cultural studies major, like the idea of a la carte cable.

"I don't watch probably half the channels I'm paying for," she said. But Bunten said the variety is nice. Ultimately, she would opt for whatever option was cheaper, she said.

Some cable providers like Comcast said the current system keeps the cable price in check.

Supporters of the current practices said a la carte cable would be more expensive for consumers.

Rich Ruggiero, vice president of Communications and Public Affairs for the Midwest division of Comcast, said Comcast offers different packages depending on the consumer's interests, such as premium movie channels, sports and Spanish language programming.

"Our approach has been to offer a whole host of different choices to customers," he said.

Tiffany J. Garrett, an arts, entertainment and media management sophomore, likes the variety cable bundles offer.

"I want to be able to scroll different channels to see what's out there," she said.

Tiering, or bundling different services, is how most cable providers sell cable services.

"The idea of tiering, or offering various tiers of service, is a market-driven decision instead of a government-driven one,"

Ruggiero said.

Tiering controls the cost because when service is done individually for each channel, advertising revenue goes down, forcing cable companies to pay more for marketing in order to advertise to individual consumers, he said. When it's part of a package, the channels are able to market themselves to a broader number of people at the same time, Ruggiero said.

In a similar vein, Ruggiero said a consumer would be at a disadvantage if he had to call his cable provider every time he wanted to add a channel because a new TV show he might enjoy was starting. Also, consumers wouldn't be able to discover new programs through channel surfing, he said.

"In general, in an a la carte environment, you're going to talk about much less diversity in programming and much less choice," Ruggiero said.

Lexie Eglin, a sophomore interior architecture major, said the current package system works.

"You can buy packages depending on what you like," Eglin said.

Eglin said it would be difficult to know exactly what channels to purchase.

"I don't really know what I'd watch if I had to pick channel per channel," she said.

Holly Mahone, a journalism sophomore, said the cable companies should "compromise." She suggested they make smaller packages that cost less money.

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»PINK:

Continued from Back Page

Notes of hope help breast cancer patients handle treatments, hospital visits

At the rally, Paper Mate provided a six-foot-tall journal for people to write notes of hope to cancer patients. It was later marched down Michigan Avenue to collect additional notes from passers-by. Michael Finn, director of communications for Paper Mate, said the journal is eventually going to be displayed in the lobby of the City of Hope Cancer Center, located in Los Angeles.

Finn said about 50 volunteers from Paper Mate came out to help with the rally, handing out pink pens and T-shirts that said "Write for Hope."

Paper Mate also created a special pink pen for the occasion. Though they were being given away for free at the rally, the pen's suggested retail price is \$1.49 and 10 cents of the proceeds will be donated to the City of Hope Cancer Center. Paper Mate has promised to donate \$200,000 to the City of Hope for cancer research, including the profits of the sale of the pink pens.

"The reason Paper Mate is successful is because we write more than words," Finn said. "It's about emotion."

Sue Olsen said the notes are a great idea because sometimes friends and relatives don't want to call a patient in the hospital because they might be sleeping or feel too sick to talk.

"The notes are those special messages of hope that really get you through," she said.

Before the journal arrives at the research center, it will be taken across the country to be present at each Walk for Hope, a vol-

unteer effort which raises money for breast cancer research funding for the City of Hope Cancer Center. The Walk for Hope begins Oct. 7 in Phoenix, Seattle and Philadelphia. On Oct. 13, San Francisco hosts its walk, and the following day, Oct. 14, it will take place in Washington D.C. and Chicago.

People who won't be in those cities or participating in the walks can still write messages of hope online that will be sent to the City of Hope Cancer Center by going to papermate.com/writeforhope.

For more information, visit cityofhope.org.

dnelson@chroniclemail.com

Breast Cancer Facts

Provided by the American Cancer Society

Breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer among women in the U.S. One in three cancer cases in women occurs in the breasts.

Every three minutes a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer in the U.S. Every 13 minutes a woman with breast cancer will die.

Approximately one in eight women will develop breast cancer. One in 33 has a chance of dying.

Approximately 178,480 new cases of breast cancer are expected to be diagnosed in women during this year.

There are more than 2 million breast cancer survivors in the U.S.

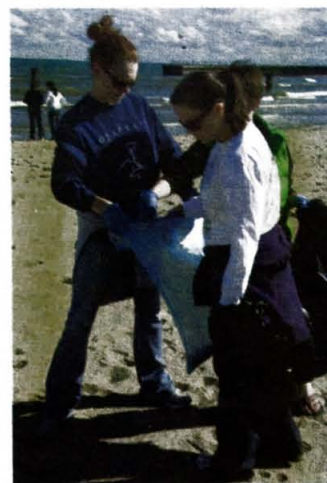
Chicago cleans up

On Sept. 15, the Alliance for the Great Lakes, an environmental organization that works to preserve the Great Lakes through education, held a beach clean-up across 44 beaches spanning the lakes.

The Adopt-a-Beach clean-up was done entirely by volunteers and was held in Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana.

(Left) Christine Nielsen, Emily Dawkins, and Susan Garver clean up North Avenue Beach in Chicago.

(Below) Volunteers Corinne Johns, Peter Chantawat and John Haygood pick up trash littering another part of North Avenue Beach.



Chuck Wu THE CHRONICLE

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III. Senate votes to meet transportation needs with more casinos



Billions of state funding would finance gambling plan

by Ryan Keith

THE ILLINOIS Senate approved a long-delayed construction package for transportation and school needs backed by massive gambling expansion on Sept. 18, but its prospects of becoming law are far from clear.

The Senate narrowly approved 37-15 the deal worked out by Gov. Rod Blagojevich and top Senate leaders to create three new casinos, including one in Chicago, and allow existing casinos to expand to pay for a roughly \$13 billion state construction program.

It now heads to the House, where leaders have rejected previous gambling expansion plans. Madigan spokesman Steve Brown said the House would review the plan but members traditionally haven't shown much support for "big gaming expansion."

The plan includes \$300 million more for education, millions for school construction projects and a \$200 million bailout for the Chicago area's struggling mass transit systems.

Senators complained that it was a poor solution to long-festered financial prob-

lems that would hurt the working poor with gambling expansion.

"You really have got us all blinded by the need to do a capital bill here today," said Sen. Martin Sandoval (D-Chicago).

Top Senate leaders and others responded that it was the best way available to provide money for long-overdue improvements to roads, bridges and schools.

"It is the only game in town right now," said Senate Minority Leader Frank Watson (R-Greenville).

Blagojevich challenged the House to approve the gambling plan while acknowledging its flaws. He called it "imperfect means to get to good ends."

The Senate approved 58-0 legislation allowing the state to borrow billions of dollars and use the money for the construction projects, with gambling proceeds paying off the debt. When federal money and other funds are included, the total program amounts to about \$25 billion.

Senate leaders also shelved another plan to aid Chicago mass transit through increased sales and real estate taxes in the region that Blagojevich and others oppose.

Some lawmakers considered the vote a big breakthrough for capital projects, which have been tied up in political bickering since the governor took office in 2003. Republicans ultimately decided to give the

package the votes it needed to pass after getting assurances in detailed memorandums of understanding with Blagojevich's office that their members would receive the projects they were promised.

Despite the proposal's advancement, the casino-transportation mix is anything but settled.

Senators went home after the Sept. 18 votes, and both the House and Senate are not scheduled to meet back at the Capitol until October for their fall veto session.

Leaders acknowledged the proposal likely wouldn't be the final version of any capital plan but should put pressure on the House to act, with organized labor and business pushing hard for new projects that haven't been approved for several years.

Senate Majority Leader Debbie Halvorson (D-Crete) said the proposal could spur negotiations with the House on millions of dollars in budget cuts Blagojevich made last month that have drawn the ire of many lawmakers.

The Regional Transportation Authority, which oversees mass transit in the Chicago area, said it hasn't taken a position yet on whether it supports the Senate's version of a mass transit bailout.

One potential problem is that the Senate plan advances the transit systems \$200 million that they would have to repay later.

Under the plan to raise local taxes, the systems would simply be able to collect their money and not owe anything to the state.

Some Republicans questioned why the plan doesn't specifically detail how and when the systems, which have been criticized for financial mismanagement, must pay back the loan.

"That's an impressive leap of faith," said Sen. Dale Righer (R-Mattoon).

Blagojevich said officials must come up with a long-term solution to the transit systems' problems so they can repay the state money. His preferred solution, ending a variety of tax breaks for business, has little legislative support, but the Democratic governor said there are other options. He did not identify them.

Sen. Mike Jacobs (D-East Moline) said many lawmakers are concerned about using gambling to pay for construction projects. They also don't see the logic behind passing a plan that doesn't have support from House leaders, who have not been involved in recent talks.

"What we're doing here is running in place," Jacobs said. "I would be just as happy if we wouldn't do anything."

AP

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Scoop in the Loop: Uproar in Aurora



by Dana Nelson
City Beat Editor

NOT-SO-SMALL-TOWN AURORA, the second largest city in Illinois, is up in arms about the fate of the building on 3051 E. New York St., which protesters have deemed an "abortion mill."

Less than a year ago, Planned Parenthood bought the land and built an office on the location. However, the contractor didn't let the city know what exactly was going to happen in the building once it was constructed. On construction permits, it appeared that the "Gemini Office Development" would be putting some kind of medical center in the area. Tenant: unknown.

That is, until a construction worker thought it was weird to be putting in bulletproof glass and security cameras and mentioned it to his priest. Within days, as people realized the true intent for the building, a massive right-to-life protest had been assembled, followed shortly by a media circus and a city investigation into the legality of the building.

But what's the real issue here? The fact that Planned Parenthood didn't disclose its identity until nearly a month before it opened?

Or is it the age-old abortion debate? Would anyone really be upset that a building didn't disclose its tenant if the tenant eventually ended up being a dentist or a lawyer or any other "acceptable" practice?

I'm not going to get into the abortion debate—whether it's right or wrong is up to the individual to decide. I'm not here to make statements about what people should believe when it comes to this clinic. But let's look at the facts.

- Illinois was rated 46th nationally in contraceptive services, according to the Alan Guttmacher Institute, a nonprofit reproductive health research organization.

- Planned Parenthood not only carries out abortions, but also provides contraceptives, does STI and cancer screenings and administers PAP tests, all at a cheaper rate than most clinics.

- According to Planned Parenthood spokeswoman Sara Knaub, less than 10 percent of all services provided in the Chicago area are abortions.

- While abortion rates at Planned Parenthood are increasing, nationally they're on the decline, which suggests more people go specifically to Planned Parenthood for abortions, rather than other clinics and hospitals.

But according to Pro-Life Action League communications director Eric Scheidler, the clinic is trying to weed out Aurora's Latino population, which makes up one-third of Aurora's entire population. Other activists have said the clinic is encouraging teenagers to become sexually active and providing faulty contraceptives to increase the likelihood of a later abortion.

I can't speak on the supposed racism

against minorities, faulty contraceptives or encouragement of sexual behavior. It's a he-said, she-said debate to me with too few facts to make a case. The more likely reason Planned Parenthood moved to Aurora is because it's the second largest city in a state ranked poorly in contraceptive services.

I can't blame Planned Parenthood for not disclosing its identity. Like any abortion clinic knows, being in the field can be downright dangerous. Anti-abortion activists tend to harass patients, hold grotesque signs and shout obscenities, not to mention the occasional bombing or attack. Employees have been stalked and murdered. As a journalist, I believe it's dishonest and unethical not to reveal your identity, but I can understand the reasoning and imagine there may be points in my career where it will be dangerous to let people know I'm a member of the press.

The point I'd like to make is not that abortion is good/evil, Planned Parenthood is dishonest or that teenagers are promiscuous. The point is that becoming sexually active is as much of a choice as is going to Planned Parenthood for an abortion. Just because there is a Planned Parenthood in the area does not mean people will suddenly turn immoral or that crime will go up—unless the protesters turn violent, of course.

Exercise your right to choose to be sexually active, to go to a clinic or a hospital for medical care, to voice your opinion about something you care about. And then stop—because other people have opinions and choices too, and you don't have the right to make that choice for them.

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Calendar

Monday, Sept. 24

If you're interested in the stem cell research debate, you won't want to miss the final panel from the Illinois Humanities Council's series "Future Perfect: Conversations on the Meaning of the Genetics Revolution." The program, which runs from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Illinois Black Legislators Auditorium, 740 E. 56th Place, is a screening of excerpts from the documentary *Terra Incognita: The Promise and Perils of Stem Cell Research* from Kartemquin Films. The show is free, but reservations are required.

Call (312) 422-5580 or e-mail ihc@prairie.org to make reservations. Visit prairie.org for more information.

Wednesday, Sept. 26

Can't get enough of The Beatles? Head on over to the Book Cellar, 4736 N. Lincoln Ave., at 7 p.m. for a free discussion hosted by Stuart Shea and Robert Rodriguez, authors of *Fab Four FAQ: Everything Left to Know About the Beatles ... and More!* They'll be talking about the book and the band that still continues to inspire artists and musicians today.

Call (773) 293-2665 for more information.

Thursday, Sept. 27

Mexican muralist Jose Orozco, who turned historic events into works of art, is the focus of *Orozco: Man of Fire*, a documentary being shown at the Art Institute of Chicago in Fullerton Hall, 111 S. Michigan Ave., at 6 p.m. The documentary is part of the American Perspectives series of events and a discussion will follow the film. This event is free.

For more information, visit artic.edu/aic.

In Other News

Lettuce recall

Almost 5,000 bags of Dole Hearts Delight salad mix were recalled due to E. coli bacteria, according to the Chicago Tribune on Sept. 19. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency discovered the bacteria during a random test at a Canadian grocery store. The bagged, pre-washed salad mix was also being sold in several U.S. states, including Illinois. No illnesses have been reported, according to a Dole spokesman.

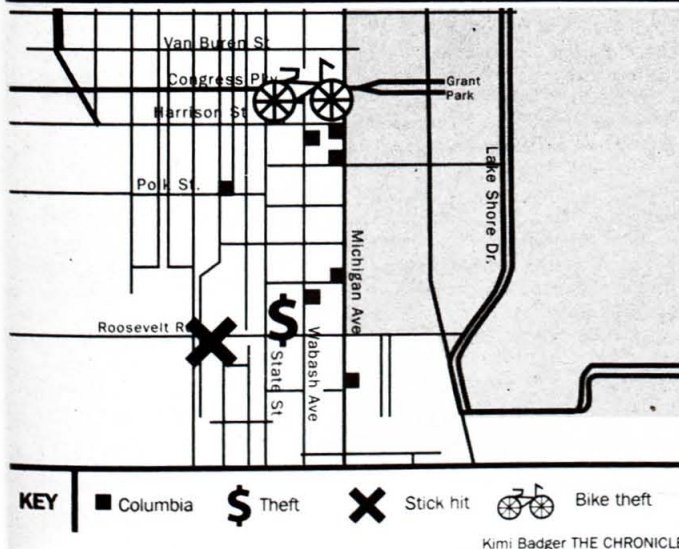
New Olympic logo

Chicago has unveiled its revised Olympic logo for the 2016 Summer Games bid on Sept. 19. The logo is a white, six-pointed star that sits on a background of gold, red, blue and green. The colors represent the city's skyline at sunrise, enthusiasm for sports and Chicago's parks and lake front, according to the Chicago Tribune. Mayor Richard Daley said the logo symbolizes athletes to be the center of the games as the "real stars." The Daily Herald reported the International Olympic Committee will meet in Denmark in October 2009 to choose a city to host the 2016 Olympics.

Chicago's congestion

Chicago is one of the most congested cities in the U.S., along with Los Angeles, New York City and Miami, the Chicago Sun-Times reported on Sept. 19. This is the fourth consecutive year Chicago drivers rank second for travel delays. U.S. drivers collectively spend more than 4 billion hours in traffic and burn nearly 3 billion gallons of gas a year, according to a national transportation study, the Sun-Times reported.

OFF THE BLOTTER



Compiled by Chronicle staff through information provided by the Chicago Police Department.

Stick threat

A 19-year-old female reported to police on Sept. 17 that two offenders, one male without any teeth and one female, approached her on the Roosevelt Road bridge and demanded money. The victim reported the offenders had a baseball bat and a stick and they threatened to hit her if she didn't give them money. The victim gave them two cell phones valued at \$400, a gold ring valued at \$70, a gold necklace valued at \$120 and \$274 in cash.

Missing bike

A 21-year-old male reported to police that his black Cannondale Capo Men's Bike, valued at \$900, was stolen on Sept. 17, according to the police report. The bike, which was locked up at 42 E. Congress Parkway, was not there when the victim returned. The lock, valued at \$40, was also stolen.

Drug store doldrums

A 50-year-old Walgreens employee reported to police on Sept. 17 she was held up while checking out a customer at 2 E. Roosevelt Rd. The male, who was wearing a Chicago White Sox baseball cap, was making a purchase at the cosmetic counter when he showed her a gun tucked into the waistband of his pants and said "Give me the money out of the register or I will kill you and everyone in here." The worker gave the offender \$390 from the register.

On the same day, the assistant manager of the same Walgreens reported to police that a 31-year-old male stole six "personal hygiene items" valued at \$44.54. The offender took items from the shelf and walked out of the store, setting off the alarm, according to the police report. The assistant manager followed the offender and asked him to open his bag and the items were inside. Police responded at the scene.

City Beat

Greg Olsen: Pretty in pink



Campaign to fight breast cancer focuses on getting men involved

by Dana Nelson
City Beat Editor

WITH OCTOBER right around the corner, advocates for a cure are coloring Chicago pink to show the city's support for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Even the Chicago Bears are in on it, with tight end Greg Olsen spearheading the cause.

Standing next to his mother, Sue, a breast cancer survivor of six years, Greg Olsen spoke at the "Are You Man Enough" rally at the John Hancock Center, 875 N. Michigan Ave., on Sept. 18, and encouraged men to support women in the fight against breast cancer.

"No one in the NFL can compare to what these women go through," Olsen said. He added pink wasn't really his color, but he would wear it to show his support.

Olsen said the people attending breast cancer awareness rallies are mostly women. He said he wanted to challenge men to take part and support their spouses, sisters, mothers and other women affected by breast cancer. Breast cancer affects men too, because it affects a loved one, he said.



(Left) Chicago Bears tight end Greg Olsen stands next to his mother, Sue, at the 'Are You Man Enough?' breast cancer awareness campaign aimed at men. (Right) Greg Olsen writes a note of hope on a large journal by Paper Mate that will be displayed in the City of Hope Cancer Center after traveling across the country to several Walks of Hope.

Sue was diagnosed with breast cancer while Greg Olsen was in high school. The family struggled through it and came out victorious.

Although the cancer is in remission, Olsen said it still hits close to home to him and becoming involved in the campaign

to fight breast cancer was something he wanted to "tackle head on in this city and take it as far as we can."

The rally is part of the City of Hope Cancer Center and writing instrument company Paper Mate's "Write for Hope" campaign, which is geared at generating thousands



Tim Hunt THE CHRONICLE

of notes of hope for breast cancer patients. This is the second year in a row this campaign has been going on, though this is the first year Olsen got involved and became the spokesman for the campaign.

»PINK, PG. 37

Working for the common man



Presidential candidate Bill Richardson speaks to laborers

by Becky Schlikerman
Assistant City Beat Editor

NEW MEXICO Governor Bill Richardson stood before a room occupied by 1,200 union members, all wearing tangerine-colored T-shirts. He spoke about his accomplishments and plans, hoping to gain their support in the race for the Democratic presidential candidacy.

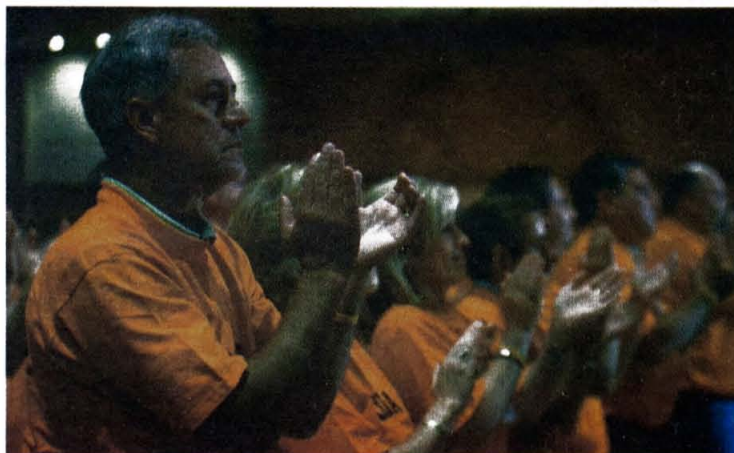
Richardson, a candidate for the Democratic nomination for president, spoke to members of the Laborers International

Union of America (LIUNA) on Sept. 18 at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers, 301 E. North Water St. Richardson compared what he would do if elected with what he has done as governor. Environmental policy, health care, the Iraq war, veterans and labor issues were addressed.

Richardson spoke to LIUNA a day after other Democratic presidential candidates Hillary Clinton, Joe Biden and John Edwards addressed the union at the same convention.

Democratic candidates were the only ones invited because two-thirds of LIUNA's members are Democrats while the others are mostly independents, said LIUNA

»UNION, PG. 35



Jack Reid, a LIUNA employee from their Midwest Regional Office, applauds as Bill Richardson is introduced.

Andrew A. Nelles THE CHRONICLE

An integration refusal



Personal choice makes Chicago one of the most segregated cities, study suggests

by Silvana Tabares
Assistant City Beat Editor

CHICAGO RANKS number nine among the nation's top 10 most segregated cities, according to a 2006 housing segregation background report by National Fair Housing, a project that conducts testing of housing discrimination in the real estate market.

While segregation affects communities across the United States, experts say Chicago continues to have high levels of segregation and contains more single-race neighborhoods than other cities. Most people aren't aware that housing discrimination persists and consequently causes the segregation of neighborhoods, according to experts.

Only about 2 percent of the population that faces housing discrimination are aware of it, according to Rob Breymaier, executive director of the Oak Park Regional Housing Center, a non-profit organization that offers free listings for apartments.

The Fair Housing Project in Chicago, funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, investigates housing discrimination complaints and does periodic housing audits to make sure realtors and landlords are not discriminating based on race or economic class.

Breymaier said discrimination methods include steering, where realtors guide

people to purchase a home in certain neighborhoods.

"People in the real estate industry are not assisting those with expanding their options to think about communities that they may not thought of otherwise," Breymaier said.

The Oak Park Regional Housing Center helps people find places to live in Oak Park and the surrounding region and encourages them to consider diverse neighborhoods, said Justin Massa, a Fair Housing testing coordinator at the Fair Housing Project in Chicago.

"There are very few organizations, institutions or policies that are in place to try to overcome that pattern of inequality and that pattern of segregation and that is really what [is] necessary in this day and age," Breymaier said.

Myron Orfield, associate professor of law and executive director of the Institute on Race and Poverty at the University of Minnesota, agreed that steering contributes to segregation.

He said realtors steer whites to buy a home in white majority communities and prevent them from choosing to live in integrated neighborhoods. He added that steering also prevents blacks and Latinos from having the choice to live in white neighborhoods. Blacks and Latinos are steered toward racially integrated neighborhoods with white groups, but not all-white neighborhoods.

Courtney Jones, a black fiction writing major, disagreed and said people are

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